

Jordan to sign deal with Lloyds

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said on Sunday it hoped to sign an agreement this month for land inspections to replace sea searches of Aqaba-bound vessels by a U.N. flotilla enforcing trade sanctions on Iraq. "The Aqaba Ports Corporation and Lloyds Register are expected to sign the pact in the next 10 to 14 days to enable the latter to carry out (land-based) monitoring and observation of goods at Aqaba," a senior Jordanian official told Reuters. The official, who requested anonymity, said he expected the new procedures at Aqaba to be in place later in July. Officials say Lloyds Register of Shipping, an independent body, will "monitor" not "search" goods arriving at the port by ensuring the cargo matches the ship's manifests. Officials say technical details on the method of payment, inspection and follow up had delayed the signing. Land-inspection is expected to slash shipping costs and help Aqaba win back business lost to ports on the Turkish and Syrian coasts. Aqaba is still a major conduit for goods to Iraq allowed under the sweeping U.N. trade sanctions such as food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Ibrahimi meets Yemenis in Cairo; no letup in war

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.N. mediator Lakhdar Brahimi held separate talks with northern and southern Yemeni delegations in Cairo on Sunday in an attempt to arrange a lasting ceasefire and the first direct talks since war broke out in Yemen on May 4.

Mr. Brahimi stayed on in the Egyptian capital unexpectedly when the northern government in Sanaa sent notice on Saturday night that it would be sending the delegation.

But there was no obvious sign that the two teams would meet, let alone agree on arrangements to make a ceasefire hold.

They are still far apart on central issues such as the status of the negotiators and on whether they should let foreign observers help monitor the proposed truce.

Mr. Brahimi held informal talks with a southern team led by Salem Saleh Mohammed on Sunday morning and then met the northerners in the afternoon at the U.N. offices in Cairo.

The southerners again said they suspected the northerners had come to Cairo only to gain time while their army continues to try to shell the southern capital Aden into submission.

"Sanaa is trying to skirt around the subject and waste time," Mr. Mohammad told reporters.

The Sanaa government has the military advantage so the secessionist southern state is trying to mobilise as much international support as possible to stop the fighting.

Mr. Mohammad, speaking at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, said a ceasefire remained the key to direct talks.

"The U.N. special representative is making efforts to stop the shooting, which is the urgent issue now, and in the light of those efforts will be decided the fate of discussing the ceasefire mechanism," he said.

"And in the light of that will be decided the formation of the two delegations to discuss the rest of the issues."

Mr. Brahimi has proposed an immediate ceasefire and a joint military commission to monitor it, including representatives of Arab and other foreign countries.

But the head of the northern delegation, Ali Mansour Al Rashid, told reporters: "The matter has not yet reached the stage of calling on Arab forces to help monitor the ceasefire. The matter is still confined to the Yemeni state."

The northerners are also anxious to avoid a negotiating formula which recognises the secessionist state which southern leaders announced on May 21.

"We are talking within the framework of the Republic of Yemen. If they (the southerners) are coming to talk on the concept of two republics, the talks will fail," Planning Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani told Reuters in Sanaa.

Mr. Rashid said he had a letter for Mr. Brahimi about the U.N. Security Council resolution urging an end to Yemen's civil war.

The talks will focus on reviving the joint military committee — which includes members from both Yemeni sides, Arab countries, the United States and France — to monitor ceasefires, Mr. Rashid said.

Mr. Rashid said the northern delegations represented the two main northern partners in the coalition which was ruling Yemen when the war broke out — the General People's Congress of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Islamist party Islah.

It was coming to see representatives of the third party in the coalition — the mainly southern Yemeni Socialist Party of southern Vice-president Ali Salem Al Beidh.

But Mr. Mohammad, in theory a member of the presidential councils in both the unionist government and the secessionist south, said it was impossible to put the clock back.

"The negotiating table will

define the future in Yemen. This future cannot return to (what it was) before the war," he said.

He also justified South Yemen's attempts to secure military assistance from abroad.

"What we face now is invasion and occupation ... and in this case we have the right to ask for help," he said.

"The countries which are supplying South Yemen with arms are the states which stand on the side of right and respect for dialogue and peace in the region."

Earlier on Sunday Mr. Ibrahimi said he might stay in Cairo for two or three days, depending on the outcome of his contacts.

He will have a formal meeting with the southern delegation later Sunday evening, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

On the war front, northern forces said southern warplanes attacked a coastal city Sunday, killing 17 people and wounding 33.

The northern-run news agency SABA said the casualties were inflicted during an air raid that targeted the power station in the coastal city of Mukha, 260 kilometres south of Sanaa.

The agency said women and children were among those killed.

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Regent meets Chopra, stresses need for comprehensive approach

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday called on international institutions to play an active role in ensuring comprehensive development capable of securing regional economic balance.

The Regent was speaking during an audience with Ram Chopra, head of the World Bank's Al Mashreq division, who is now on a visit to Jordan to attend a gathering marking the 50th anniversary of the World Bank.

Prince Hassan and Mr. Chopra discussed impact of the Middle East peace process on the Jordanian economy and steps to be taken by Jordan and the international community to help Jordan overcome its economic problems.

Discussion also focussed on the humanitarian dimension of the peace process and the enormous economic burdens Jordan has been shouldering over the past decades.

Mr. Chopra reiterated the World Bank's commitment to supporting Jordan's economic reform programmes and policies, aimed at activating the role of the private sector and encourage exports as a means to achieve comprehensive development.

The audience was attended



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday confers with Ram Chopra, head of the World Bank's Middle East (Al Mashreq division) (centre) (Petra photo)

by Planning Minister Hisham Al Khatib and the Crown Prince's advisor Ziad Fariz.

Later Sunday the acting prime minister, Thouqan Hindawi, received Mr. Chopra and an accompanying delegation and reviewed with them Jordan's economic performance and the World Bank's support for the national economy.

Mr. Hindawi thanked the

World Bank for its support and reiterated Jordan's resolve to pursue the economic reform programme.

The acting prime minister stressed the need for taking steps to ensure the privatisation of public sector corporations in a manner serving Jordan's special circumstances and ensuring its economic prosperity.

Mr. Chopra voiced optimism over Jordan's economic future, saying that its "genuine resolve and aspirations will enable it to do without the World Bank loans within the next two decades."

However, he said, the World Bank will continue to provide assistance and advice in light of the changes in the Middle East.

Carter says Korean nuclear crisis is over

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Former President Jimmy Carter spoke with President Bill Clinton on Sunday and said afterwards he believes the nuclear crisis with North Korea "is over."

Mr. Carter said he presented top administration officials with a proposal he received from North Korean President Kim Il Sung during his visit to North Korea last week.

"I personally believe that the crisis is over," Mr. Carter told reporters outside the White House after meeting with Clinton aides. "I personally don't see any need to proceed with the sanctions against North Korea."

"I believe he (Kim) wants to work towards reconciliation with South Korea on a mutually advantageous basis."

At a news conference before leaving Seoul, South Korea, Mr. Carter reiterated that the leaders of rival North and South Korea had agreed to meet in a bid to resolve doubts about the North's nuclear programme.

Mr. Carter also said Communist leader Kim agreed to freeze his nuclear programme during "good-faith talks" with the United States.

The developments marked a dramatic breakthrough in the 15-month deadlock over suspicion that the hard-line communist North has been developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea claims that its nuclear programme is peaceful but has failed to prove it. Mr. Carter said he spoke by telephone with Mr. Clinton, who was spending the weekend at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House on the North Korean proposals relayed by Mr. Carter, but the White House had previously said they would be explored through diplomatic channels.

In Seoul, Mr. Carter had said the North Korean leader pledged to keep International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors and monitoring equipment in place.

Mr. Carter said Kim Il-Sung also expressed North Korea's desire to replace its gas-graphite reactors with light water nuclear reactors, which would pose less of a problem in safeguarding against nuclear proliferation.

(Continued on page 12)

Fresh autonomy talks next week

EREZ JUNCTION (Agencies) — Top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiator Nabil Shaath met with his Israeli counterpart Sunday and said talks with Israel on expanding autonomy would resume next week.

Dr. Shaath said negotiations would continue next Monday "on the early empowerment in the West Bank and spreading the Palestinian authority's jurisdiction over the cities and villages of the West Bank."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office confirmed that talks would resume on Monday. Neither side said where the talks would take place.

Dr. Shaath added after a meeting with Major General Amnon Shahak at the entrance to the Gaza Strip that other issues would include further prisoner releases and what to do about 287 prisoners in Jericho who Israel refuses to allow out of the autonomy zone to return to their homes elsewhere in the West Bank.

Also on the agenda will be questions left unresolved in the May 4 PLO-Israel agreement signed in Cairo such as the size of the autonomy area

around Jericho.

"We have again put the peace process back on schedule and as we have always believed, Gaza and Jericho is but a beginning. The importance is to continue this peace process until there's real peace between our two peoples," Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath also said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will pay a landmark visit to the Palestinian self-rule areas this month.

Asked by reporters when Mr. Arafat would arrive, Dr. Shaath said: "Before the end of this month."

Mr. Arafat's visit to Jericho, a first foothold in what he regards as a future Palestinian state, is expected to draw thousands of Palestinians from areas in the West Bank still under Israeli occupation.

Dr. Shaath said talks with Israel would be held on two tracks: Negotiations on a permanent peace settlement and meetings of a joint security committee.

The negotiators aimed to "finish all unfinished business from the Gaza and Jericho agreement and to proceed

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Focus of U.S. talks is on bilateral ties

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein will head the Jordanian delegation to the talks with the U.S. due to start in Washington Monday. The American side will be headed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and will include senior State Department officials.

Taking part in the talks on the Jordanian side will be Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qassem, the King's Military Secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and Jordanian Ambassador to the U.S. Faysel Tarawneh.

The American side will include Robert Pelletreau, presidential advisor Martin Indy and Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross.

On Wednesday, the Jordanian-American joint committee will hold its first meeting in Washington, when the King will also meet

with President Bill Clinton.

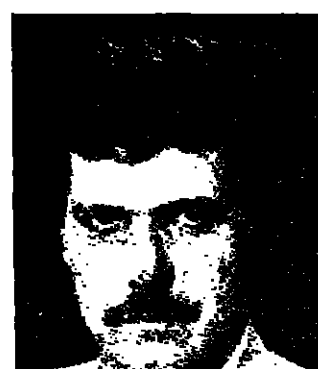
The committee, which was set up during King Hussein's visit to the U.S. earlier this year, includes several officials and specialists from both sides.

Dr. Tarawneh told Petra the committee would try in the first meeting to define its work and goals, in addition to some important issues that have to be dealt with between the two sides, such as Jordan's foreign debts.

He said setting up the committee indicated the American desire to institutionalise relations with Jordan.

The Jordanian-American relations had improved a lot as a result of the King's visits, which were able to explain Jordan's principled stands on various Arab and domestic and regional issues. The King's current visit is his third after President Clinton took over the White House.

Dr. Tarawneh said the King's current visit will mark a new era in Jordanian-American relations, noting that the King "talks with the



Faysel Tarawneh

American side frankly, with absolute faith in Arab rights."

The U.S. Administration is now more convinced in the need to place the Jordanian-American relations on "a more solid ground," he said.

"Following the confusion that characterised the world scene during the Gulf war and the misinterpretations of

the Jordanian stand on the war, the American administration, Congress, the media and public opinion understood that the Jordanian policy is clear and honest, whether with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict or any other regional conflicts. "This policy calls for the implementation of international legitimacy and solving Arab conflicts within an Arab framework," he said.

He said the democratisation process, Jordan's record on human rights and the economic reform process have all enhanced Jordan's status.

He said the trilateral Jordanian-American-Israeli committee will resume its meetings in July.

During the committee's last meeting, said Dr. Tarawneh, a mechanism was prepared to activate the Jordanian-Israeli track in the peace process. Agreement was reached at the meeting to start negotiations in the region on border demarcation, water sharing and other bilateral issues.

Israel wants Syria to accelerate talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel urged Syria on Sunday to speed up their sluggish peace talks, saying crises such as the U.S.-North Korea standoff could halt Washington's efforts to push their negotiations forward.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington and chief negotiator with Syria, said Damascus acted as though U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's time was "unlimited."

"This is of course an unrealistic view," he told Israel Radio. "It's important that everyone understand that there is a window of opportunity that is limited."

Mr. Rabinovich said Washington's standoff with North Korea over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear arms programme proved the "administration's agenda may be taken over at any given moment."

An Israeli daily said meanwhile Israel is putting together a proposal for an interim agreement with Lebanon and reports some progress in private talks with Syria.

The proposal for talks with Lebanon calls for the dismantling of the Hizbollah guerrilla

movement and other Palestinian rejectionist groups based in Lebanon, the daily Haaretz said.

It also outlines a test period of six months during which the Lebanese army would deploy in the southern Lebanon. Israel has controlled a zone in South Lebanon since it withdrew the bulk of its forces in June 1985.

If the Lebanese prove they can help prevent cross-border attacks on Israeli towns and keep order then Israel would be prepared to withdraw all its troops, the report said.

However, no progress is expected with Lebanon until negotiators make headway with Syria, said Haaretz, adding that some progress was made in informal talks in Washington.

Mr. Rabinovich declined to say when Mr. Christopher might return to the region. Officials in Washington said last week an expected Christopher trip to the area appeared increasingly unlikely.

Mr. Rabinovich said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad could convince Washington that Israeli-Syrian talks should take precedence over other world events.

World Bank sees better PLO aid setup

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A large part of monitoring arrangements for international aid being channelled to Palestinian self-rule is completed and the World Bank believes that the donors' needs of means to ensure the proper use of the funds have been largely met, a senior World Bank official has said.

Ram Chopra, head of the Middle East (Mashreq) division of the World Bank and coordinator for the \$2.2 billion aid for Palestinians pledged by donors in October, said he expected the Palestinians in the occupied territories to begin seeing the "dividends of peace" in six months.

"The actual flow of funds has already started," said Mr. Chopra, referring to the decision at donors' meeting last week to release \$42 million to

the PLO as "start-up costs, transitional costs, administrative salaries", etc.

Mr. Chopra's affirmation that the World Bank and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had made progress towards setting up mechanisms for channelling and monitoring aid came against PLO complaints that donors were holding back the funds.

Donors have been insisting that credible financial institutions run by professionals be set up to channel and use the aid instead of some of the autocratic bodies of the PLO, which is accused of widespread corruption and misuse of the billions of dollars it received as aid from the oil-rich Gulf states in the past decades.

In a report released last month, the World Bank said \$1.2 billion would be made available to the Palestinians in the next three years to

support the autonomy arrangement with Israel and pave the way for sustainable peace in the occupied territories through improving the living conditions of the Palestinians there.

But the donors and the World Bank on the one hand and the PLO on the other differed on how the funds would be sent and who would determine whether a project was required or not.

In the absence of Palestinian institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the question that faced the donors was, Mr. Chopra said, "Whom do you provide the aid to?"

"We need a balance between economic development, the speed (of the flow of funds), the need to ensure Palestinian ownership of projects already developed and the donors' needs of accountability and transparency," Mr. Chopra said an interview

with Mexican Television, Televisa, late Saturday. A transcript of the interview was made available to the Jordan Times.

"After some delay, that (setting up mechanisms for aid) has occurred," Mr. Chopra said. The delay was "why you heard all these complaints from Palestinians. Now things have started to move."

Mr. Chopra, who is visiting Jordan for a review of the Kingdom's economic situation and its restructuring measures and reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said that "auditing procedures have been set in place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to provide comfort to the donor community."

"The donors want to see actual evidence of the use of

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PLO packed, Arafat's orphans ready, but PLO chief sits tight

By Mona Ziad
The Associated Press

TUNIS — In a rundown, white-washed building in suburban Omran, 50 excited Palestinian orphans are all packed up and ready to accompany their surrogate father, Yasser Arafat, to the land their parents died fighting for.

Thousands of brown cardboard boxes, suitcases and two-metre stacks of files jam the corners of more than 35 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offices scattered around Tunis. Mr. Arafat's headquarters since 1983, waiting to be shipped out.

At Mr. Arafat's office in the Yagorata neighbourhood, basement storage rooms are piled floor-to-ceiling with more than 4,000 boxes.

But Mr. Arafat, in his inimitable style, is keeping everyone guessing when he will make his historic "voyage of return" to Jericho to establish his interim self-rule administration.

That is likely to be Mr. Arafat's greatest challenge in his 30 years as PLO chief. He faces monumental political, economic and social problems as he transforms the PLO from a revolutionary guerrilla movement into a government.

Mostly, he is trying to stonewall international donors into coming through with about \$150 million of the \$2.2 million they have promised to bankroll self-rule under the Sept. 13 PLO-Israeli peace accord.

So far, the donors, who demand pledges of accountability from the notoriously corrupt PLO before they hand over the money, have only agreed to provide \$42 million but no one here

know who is going to come out on top in this war of nerves.

The only certainty is that Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, which Mr. Arafat hopes will be the first step towards an independent Palestinian state, cannot start until the 64-year-old Arafat sets foot in Jericho.

The waiting is causing untold confusion and deep frustration among the hundreds of Palestinians in Tunis.

Families are selling off their cars and furniture. Officials are shredding files they no longer need — then having to burrow through the crates or archives when their superiors need documents.

Mr. Arafat had ordered the PLO offices closed by June 15 and the staff ready to move by the end of the month. But few officials have handed back the keys of their leased homes and offices in the absence of a clear departure date.

"This waiting's killing," said Samir Ghosheh, a veteran PLO official who is a member of the 25-member Palestine National Authority that will move to Jericho to run the autonomous Palestinian enclave until elections can be held.

"We still don't know who or how many people will go and who'll stay. When we get there, we don't know where we'll be put up. It's a mystery," an exasperated Ghosheh said in his office, where the contents of now-bare bookshelves have been packed into two boxes blocking the doorway.

At the orphanage, called Dar Al Somoud, or Home of Steadfastness, the smaller children played in a fenced garden around the two-storey stone building. Teenagers sat chatting or playing card

games in the stoop.

Their principal, Rabiha Al Tarawi, is organising beach trips and picnics to keep the youngsters, aged between eight and 18, occupied while they wait.

Abu Ammar, or "father of the builder," as Mr. Arafat is commonly known at Dar Al Somoud, frequently used to visit to eat with the "martyr's children," but has not done so in weeks, the orphans say.

Five of the children have been adopted by Mr. Arafat, who named them Lina, Zeina, Firas, Khaled and Haitham.

"I have only one father, Abu Ammar," says Lina, who is about 11. "I'll go where he goes and I have no fear if we're near him."

No one knows the exact ages of the five adopted children, or who their parents were.

As tiny infants, they were found by rescuers in the carnage of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut after Christian militiamen, watched by Israeli soldiers, spent two days massacring hundreds of Palestinians there in September 1982.

The older teenagers at Dar Al Somoud are less confident than Lina, a dark-haired beauty with large almond-shaped black eyes and a broad smile.

"I'm scared, worried about the future," said 18-year-old Samaher Al Khatib, who is training as a beautician here after graduating from high school.

"I don't know where we'll stay, if we'll be able to adapt or if the town will welcome us," she said of Jericho, a sweltering oasis of 15,000 people about to be inundated with thousands of diaspora Palestinians.

Shelter shortage means return of Yemeni cave-dweller

ADEN (AFP) — The heavy northern bombardment of Aden has driven some residents to seek refuge in near-by caves because there are too few shelters.

The 50 shelters in the southern stronghold can hold only 10,000 of the city's 500,000 residents, Civil Defence Director Said Al Hajj Abdul Rahim told AFP.

He said only five of these were built as shelters, providing refuge for 6,000 people, while the others are set up in city basements, including a Chinese restaurant located below ground.

As a result some residents have run to two tunnels dug into the rocks of Gold Mohur beach and others have sought refuge in caves in the mountains overlooking Aden.

"This war has brought us back to the age of the cave-dweller," Ali Mahfouz, a taxi driver, said bitterly.

Northern artillery, rocket and missile attacks since Thursday have killed at least 54 civilians and wounded 186 more in the worst siege of the city since war erupted on May 4, hospital officials said.

Nargis Shin, the manager of a Chinese restaurant — one of last restaurants to remain open — said civil defence officials asked her to remove the tables from the basement establishment to make space for residents



Southern Yemeni fighters shell northern positions from a beach in Aden (AFP photo)

seeking shelter.

Apart from the buildings in the Maalla neighbourhood near the port, most of Aden's homes are one or two-storey houses which have no basements and may explain why the casualty toll has been so high.

"If we stay inside our house, we will be crushed in the rubble or suffocate, and if we go outside, we will be killed by shrapnel," said Said Ghanem, a 50-year-old merchant in the Sheikh Osman suburb which has come under frequent attack.

Sanaa Radio on Friday urged Aden residents to leave neighbourhoods near

the airport, naval bases, television and radio broadcasting centres, barracks and the headquarters of the south's ruling Yemen Socialist Party.

Northern artillery will target these facilities, it warned.

Mohammad Hamed, a young mechanic whose garage burned down on Thursday, said there was virtually no place to run.

"The Khormaksar neighbourhood is located near the airport, those of Maalla and Tawahi near the port, and in Crater there are military barracks. All we have left is the sea," he said.

Northern forces are as

close as 20 kilometres from Aden, and residents from villages in the war zone have swelled the population of the southern city.

The fighting involves forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and those backing his southern rival Ali Salem Al Bidh, who declared a separate state with Aden as its capital on May 20.

Fighting erupted on May 4 after the two failed to agree on sharing power in united Yemen — the product of a 1990 merger between the former Marxist South Yemen and tribal and conservative North Yemen.

PLO to have envoy to the Vatican

ROME (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) envoy in Italy said Saturday that the organisation will soon appoint a representative to the Vatican.

Shortly after the agreement six months ago between the Holy See and Israel to establish diplomatic ties, the Vatican received a PLO delegation and announced a phase of "more official dialogue" with Palestinians.

Nemer Hammad, the PLO's representative to Italy, said he expected that within "a very few weeks" the Holy See and the Vatican should have an agreement enabling the PLO to appoint an envoy.

The Vatican's Press office was closed for the day, and spokesmen could not be reached for comment on Mr. Hammad's assessment, but any such accord would come in the framework of stepped-up Middle East diplomacy by the Vatican.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received a high-ranking Vatican envoy in Tunis in March.

The Vatican has representatives to organisations, such as U.N. agencies, in addition to countries with which it has diplomatic relations.

Mr. Hammad said appointing a PLO representative to the Vatican did not necessarily mean the organisation would open a special office, saying the PLO's economic situation would probably not allow it. Presumably any PLO representative could work out of its office in Rome, which has diplomatic status.

On Wednesday, as part of their efforts to give fresh impetus to the quest for Middle East peace, the Vatican and Israel announced the establishment of formal ties and that ambassadors would be soon exchanged.

Referring to that development, Mr. Hammad said it was important to "balance" that relationship with the PLO and the Vatican.

"Otherwise it could serve the fundamentalists" in the Islamic World, Mr. Hammad said.

Improving relations with Middle East players helps the Vatican further its interest in Jerusalem. It insists on international guarantees for the city as a special place for Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Israeli officials said the agreement between the Vatican and the Jewish state recognises the Vatican's right to have a say on the status of Jerusalem. Talks on the city's ultimate status are scheduled to begin in two years with the PLO.

Saudi asylum case testing U.S. policy

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

NEW YORK — A Saudi diplomat's request for political asylum and his potentially explosive criticism of the Saudi government will test U.S. human rights policy towards its closest Arab ally, a leading human rights group said Thursday.

"The U.S. practice has been to defer to Saudi Arabia on human rights," Aziz Abu Hamad, associate director of Human Rights Watch/Middle East, told Reuters.

"It definitely will test the U.S. commitment to human rights law which calls for granting asylum to anyone who faces a well-founded fear of persecution if they were returned to their country," said Mr. Abu Hamad, who is himself from Saudi Arabia.

Mohammad Al Khalewi, a senior diplomat at the Saudi mission to the United Nations, this week filed for political asylum for himself, his wife and three small children, saying his life was in danger, his lawyers said.

"Mr. Al Khalewi is still in hiding and fears for his life."

We believe if returned to Saudi Arabia he would be killed, lawyer Michael Wildes told Reuters.

Mr. Khalewi, a first secretary at his country's U.N. mission, released a letter in May criticising the Saudi government. Last week, he fled the embassy and went into hiding, saying for the first time he had thousands of documents showing a pattern of corruption, terrorism and human rights violations by Saudi officials and the royal family.

He said the document also show that Saudi government agents spied on U.S.-based Jewish groups such as the Jewish Defence League.

A State Department official said Wednesday the United States would investigate Mr. Khalewi's allegations as part of determining his claim for asylum.

The Saudi mission to the U.N. has declined to make any statement on the case. No one at the Saudi embassy in Washington was immediately available for comment.

Saudi Arabia, a key buyer of American arms and its main supplier of oil,

tolerates little dissent and is highly sensitive to criticism, human rights groups say.

Despite widespread criticism for its lack of democracy, religious intolerance and discrimination against women, human rights groups say it has received little public censure by the U.S. government.

Mr. Khalewi's case could be particularly explosive because he has said the documents were compiled with the help of other like-minded Saudis still working for the government. Riyadh last year jailed the founders of a mainstream dissident movement calling for change but the organisation has since re-organised in London, human rights experts say.

Mr. Wildes said his law firm had filed the application for asylum on Tuesday and expected the diplomat's case to be heard before an Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) officer in the next several months.

Mr. Khalewi, who is in his early 30s, was posted to New York two years ago, frequently travelled to other Gulf Arab countries and had special expertise in disarmament and nuclear

non-proliferation issues, Mr. Wildes, a former federal prosecutor.

Mr. Abu Hamad, who said he spoke with Mr. Khalewi several days ago, said his group believed that the diplomat had a legitimate fear of returning to Saudi Arabia because the government has a record of jailing political dissidents without trial.

"It's unprecedented for a government official of such a high level to come out so publicly and so strongly against the government. I strongly believe that Mr. Al Khalewi would be imprisoned and possibly worse," said Mr. Abu Hamad, charging that the king has the power to order extrajudicial executions.

"Not only does he question the government's foreign and domestic policy he also criticises king (Fahd) by name and calls for his abdication," Mr. Abu Hamad said.

He said Mr. Khalewi's opposition was particularly embarrassing to the Saudi government because he comes from the Kingdom's central Najd region which is a bedrock of support for the ruling family.

Seminar begins in Paris

PARIS — A seminar on Palestinian trade and investment needs, aimed at promoting an exchange of views on building a new Palestinian economy following new developments in the area, will be held at the Paris headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) from 20 to 22 June, the U.N. announced yesterday.

Revocable Divorce Notice Issued by South Amman Sharia Court

To the divorce Samira Issa Nasrallah Abdul Rasoul, whose place of residence is now unknown, but whose last place of residence was in Al Bireh, Nabulus Street.

This is to advise you that your husband, Fawzi Daoud Ahmad Abdul Rasoul, who married you under an official marriage certificate, has divorced you one revocable divorce and registered it with this court under no. 83/83/358 of 14 June, 1994 and that you have to undergo the Uddia period (the interim period between divorce and remarriage) as of the date mentioned herebelow. Accordingly, you have been informed property of this divorce, on this 5th day of Muharram 1415 A.D. corresponding to 14 June, 1994.

Sharia Court Judge for South Amman Khalil Al Kusbah

Rabbani ready to transfer authority, but sets terms

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani will not resign at the end of June but is prepared to transfer his authority to a legitimate national assembly, an official spokesman declared Sunday.

"The president is waiting for an authorised assembly to be established, to which he will deliver his authority," said presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad.

Mr. Morad rejected demands of rival faction leader Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar that Mr. Rabbani must resign at the end of June, saying the president's legitimacy rested on the Kabul grand national assembly held in December 1992.

The establishment of a transitional government to settle the two-year long Afghan factional power struggle, which has been proposed by a peace commission based in the western provincial capital of Herat, had Mr. Rabbani's support, Mr. Morad said.

However, he said there was no contradiction between the power of the president and the power of the proposed Supreme Council to be set up in Herat.

"The president's authority is totally separate from the authority of the Supreme Council," stated Mr. Morad. The proposed Supreme Council would set up an interim government which,

within nine months, would pave the way for convocation of a grand assembly, itself responsible for drafting a constitution and deciding on the future leadership of Afghanistan.

It is to this grand assembly that Mr. Rabbani is most likely to transfer his authority, should it ever be convened, but as Mr. Hekmatyar has threatened more military action if Mr. Rabbani does not resign by June 28 the chances of the peace process working appear slim.

Neither Mr. Hekmatyar nor Mr. Rabbani have announced their intention of attending the Herat conference yet. The prime minister wants a "preliminary" meeting in Kabul first while the president would go "if the necessity existed."

Kokojan Niazi, a spokesman for the Herat-based peace commission, said it was hoped a meeting between Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar representatives would take place in Kabul, in order to thrash out details of the proposed Herat peace conference.

In the capital Sunday — a public holiday in observance of the Muslim religious anniversary of Arafat — there was little military activity, although locals reported continued fighting between the Shiite Harakat-e-Islami faction and Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami in south Kabul.

Ex-commander of Gaza enjoys Palestinian hospitality

GAZA CITY (AP) — Israeli and Palestinian forces drank to peace, dipped their bread in the same dish and cracked jokes on the first visit by Israel's former Gaza Strip commander to its now autonomous main city Saturday.

With an escort of Palestinian jeeps, Brigadier General Doron Almog, his wife Didi and 10 Israeli soldiers got their first glimpse of the city they withdrew from a month ago.

"The city looks good. People look happy and relaxed," said Gen. Almog during lunch at a seaside restaurant which his men often passed on patrols.

Their host, Gen. Said Sik-

de-guerre Abu Khamis, said he invited the Israelis so they would see for themselves that life was normal and peaceful in Gaza since self-rule in the strip began May 18.

Israelis often describe the current phase of self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank towns of Jericho as a test phase whose success will determine the pace of implementing autonomy elsewhere.

"We wanted them to see that people trust us even if we bring Israelis to the heart of Gaza," said Gen. Siksis, a member of the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee. In the past, residents seen with Israeli troops were often suspected of collaboration by

fellow Palestinians.

"We're willing to receive them as visitors and not as occupiers. We want to see Israeli tourists here. You can't make peace behind walls," said Gen. Siksis.

Since self-rule began, Israeli troops remaining in the strip have been confined to Jewish settlements and several roads linking them to Israel. Unlike during tours of Gaza City under occupation, the Israelis' two jeeps were not stoned and their visit passed without incident.

At lunch the atmosphere was relaxed as the two sides enjoyed a meal of fish, grilled chicken and Palestinian salads.

"To peace for your people

and our people," said a beaming Almog as he raised his soft-drink glass to Gen. Siksis.

Conversation was light. They discussed films and the Muslim practice of taking four wives and Gen. Almog told the group about his father's vain aversion to reading glasses.

When the Israelis took out cigarettes, Gen. Siksis was quick to offer his lighter. It featured a stone-throwing Palestinian and the word "infidels" was inscribed in Arabic and English. Everyone peered at it.

After lunch, Gen. Almog was introduced to the deputy Palestinian police commander, Brig. Gen. Abdul-Razak Majajda, who assured the

Israelis his forces were doing their best to maintain peace.

Last month, two Israeli soldiers were killed by Islamic militants opposed to the autonomy plan at the Gaza Strip's northern entrance, prompting a closure which prevented local workers from reaching jobs in Israel. The measure is being gradually lifted.

Attacks against Israelis in Gaza appear to have stopped since the Palestinian police commander warned several weeks ago that he would crack down on the militants.

"We generals can create the right atmosphere for peace," said Gen. Almog, adding "Inshallah."

Gen. Majajda echoed his words: "Inshallah."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Starcom
17:41 L'Ecole Des Fais
18:00 Beaudouin
18:30 News in French
18:45
The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:05 News in Arabic
19:30 The Nanny
21:10 The Coral World
22:00 News in English
22:30 G.P.
23:45 World Cup: Brazil vs. Russia

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:37 Dhuhr
16:17 'Asr
19:46 Maghrib
21:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 610744
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630831, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 634195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to rise gradually with winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 17 / 33
Amman 21 / 36
Aqaba 23 / 36
Deserts 18 / 36
Jordan Valley 22 / 37

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 31, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Kar'an 790286
Dr. Walid Masri 675485
Dr. Mohammad Omran 612232
Dr. Moukhlis Masareh 630420
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778334
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 626762
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Mahmoud Omari 272032
Alquds pharmacy 987617

ZARQA:
Dr. Mousab Hojawi 981217
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 891228
Highway Police 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre R13813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

64281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 661711/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645249
Al-Muassir Hospital 62727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Muassir 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/2
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990
CARDS:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Hafes Hospital (02)247000
AQAHA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
12:00 Khartoum (RJ)
12:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 Doha (RJ)
18:15 Bangkok (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:30 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 Sanaa (YM)
17:00 Rome (AZ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Doha (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:35 Moscow (RJ)
15:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:00 Dhahran (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

International bids expected for Aqaba power plant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) expects to receive all bids for the implementation of the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station by July 4 and, according to a statement Saturday, many of the bids will be from European, Japanese and American firms.

A JEA statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the second phase of the Aqaba project entails procurement, installation, testing and operating two thermal power units, each with a 130 megawatt capacity.

Petra quoted the statement as noting that the Ministry of

Planning and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) last week signed a \$115 million loan agreement to help implement the project.

A total of \$85 million of this loan will be used to finance part of the thermal station project while the rest will be used to partly finance the main Aqaba power station and also part of the cost of linking the Egyptian-Jordanian power grids, said the statement.

The report quoted the Ministry of Planning as saying that the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank has promised to provide a \$25 million loan for these projects while the Japanese gov-

ernment has allocated \$45 million, to be granted to Jordan if the JEA requires additional funds.

The agency said that the JEA is expected to award the tender of the Thermal Power Station in Aqaba by the end of 1994, but the second phase of the project is not expected to become operational before the second half of 1997.

According to the statement, the increase in electric power is required in view of the growing demand for electrification of all rural areas of Jordan. Last year, it said, demand for electric power in Jordan registered an increase of 8.4 per cent over the previous year.

Zarqa governor calls for stemming pollution

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The governor of Zarqa, Misliah Tarawneh, Sunday issued an appeal to the concerned authorities to undertake immediate and appropriate measures to help curtail the intense pollution in Zarqa, Ruseifa and other towns and villages within the Zarqa Governorate.

The population of Zarqa Governorate, now believed to be more than 641,000 according to 1993 statistics of the department, has increased six times over the past two decades, largely due to the return of expatriates in the wake of the Gulf war, thus putting extra pressure on the environment, according to Mr. Tarawneh.

The Zarqa Governorate, which has a total area of 4,595 square metres, houses 40 factories of which 20 employ water in their production or refrigeration processes and dump waste as well as solid pollutants in the Zarqa

electricity needs, but it burns between 1,500 to 1,700 tonnes of fuel daily to do that, further polluting the atmosphere in the Zarqa region.

According to Mr. Tarawneh, who is now head of a Zarqa municipality committee appointed by the government some measures are being followed to stem pollution. He said no new licences for factories or poultry and sheep farms are being issued, except for those to be set up in remote areas, and the process of removing the existing farms from the centre of the governorate to outlying regions is underway.

The Water Authority last month announced that the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Khirbet Al Samra is being expanded to deal with the huge amounts of waste water from the Amman and Zarqa regions. It said that the plant's present capacity is 69,000 cubic metres of waste water daily but in reality it is taking 130,000 cubic metres.

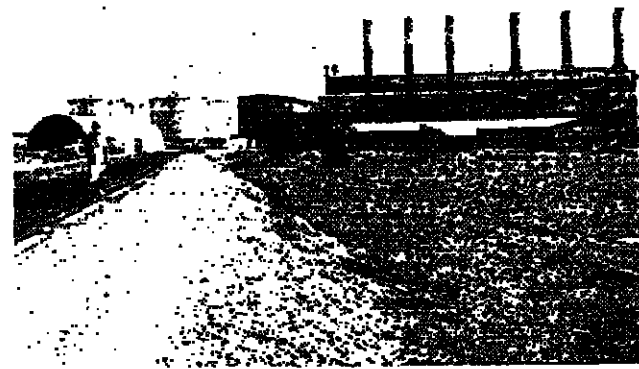
While strict surveillance is being practised to ensure

stream with detrimental consequences to the local residents, the soil and the underground water resources, added Mr. Tarawneh.

Referring to other sources of pollution, Mr. Tarawneh said that their sources are mainly the nearby Khirbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant, the poisonous fumes emitted by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) and the waste left behind the brick factories, slaughter houses and the bad smell of the sheep and cattle farms.

The governor's assistant, Sameh Al Majali, said that the refinery alone burns an average of 550 tonnes of fuel daily to produce various oil products, causing huge amounts of carbon dioxide and other poisonous gases to fill the atmosphere endangering people's lives.

Referring to Al Hussein Thermal Power Plant in Zarqa Governorate, Mr. Majali said that the power station produces up to 50 per cent of the Kingdom's



Zarqa oil refinery — one source of pollution for the inhabitants in its vicinity (File photo)

that factories treat the waste water that flows into the Zarqa River, more an stricter measures are required, said Mr. Majali.

He said that the municipality is currently encouraging the planting of shrubs and forest as well as fruit trees to be irrigated with the treated water from the river as one aspect in the current drive to improve the environment.

Mr. Majali appealed to the concerned authorities

to build a sewerage system in Ruseifa and introduce measures to stem the amount of pollution caused by the various factories, the refinery and the thermal power plant.

He said the municipality is currently building a ring road around Zarqa to help avert trucks and heavy vehicles from passing through the residential areas in yet another bid to curtail damage to the governorate's environment.

Religious meeting calls for ending embargo on Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An international religious meeting organised by the Catholic Church in Iraq has issued an appeal to the world community to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and end the suffering of the Iraqi children, the elderly and the sick, according to a member of the Jordanian delegation which attended the four-day meeting.

Father Mousa Adeli, from the Roman Catholic Church in Jordan and head of a liaison office for Iraq Caritas, said in a statement upon returning here Sunday that the

conference deplored world media's indifference to the plight of the Iraqi people, particularly the children and the sick, and demanded that the Iraqi people's human rights be respected.

The conference, attended by delegates from churches in 15 Arab and foreign countries, discussed human rights issues, the role of the Christian church in spreading peace and the positive role played by the Vatican which, Father Adeli said, has repeatedly called for an end to the U.N. sanctions and for terminating the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The aim of the meeting, he said, was to "mobilise voices

demanding an end to the plight of the Iraqi people who live in misery and face starvation."

Church delegates from Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus and the Americas stressed the fact that peace lies at the heart of the Christian and Islamic faiths and can only be achieved with the lifting of the U.N. sanctions, said Father Adeli.

Jordan's delegation to the conference, which was organised in cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Religions, was Bishop Salim Sayegh, head of the Roman Catholic community in Jordan.

Jordanian artists bring old and new to 'contemporary' Arab art

By Ica Wabbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The Cervantes Institute, Amman centre, inaugurated Thursday the collective exhibition of 16 Jordanian artists, aptly entitled "Form and colour in contemporary Arab art."

The white exhibition halls enhance the colours of the paintings and the form of the sculptures, providing a pristine background for the creations of the artists' imagination.

Opened on the occasion of the visit by Cervantes Institute Director Nicolas Sanchez-Albornoz y Abouin, the exhibition groups prestigious names in Jordanian art.

Some have on display old works or styles, others present a new facet of their growing and changing artistic

personality. It is thrilling to be able to recognise Princess Wijdan Al-Husseini's intense yellow and symbolic, suggestive calligraphy or Ammar Khammash's familiar urban landscape.

It is relaxing to see Nawal Abdullah's disciplined abstracts and her well-known colours or the attractive, modern paintings of Dodi Tabbaa with their cabalistic symbols.

And it is interesting to see the novelty in the styles of Khaled Khreis and Mohammad Al Jalooz, recognisable but artistically superior to previous works.

What is refreshing, though, is to see Soha Shuman's rendition of Petra or Margaret Tadros's sculptures — abstract yet expressive, sublime shapes and colours, in the first case, twisted clay that voluptuously hugs and

buddles in pairs, as things have been ordered, in the second.

Abdul Raouf Shoman exhibits his latest paintings in an explosion of optimistic colours, while Samer Tabbaa has his older sculptures on display, playing with surfaces, angles, lines and material, but keeping the warm, coal black as a unifying agent.

If not all names have been mentioned, it is not by intent. It is a sin that comes with collective (huge) exhibitions. But it should not chip away from the delight the viewer derives from the artists' presence and that of their works.

And as the works are not for sale, one more unpleasant aspect of art, its mercantilism, has been taken care of.

The works will be on display until the end of June.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

First music academy class graduates

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for Queen Noor Majesty of Higher Education, Al Saud Royal College (RCC) the first class of Music Science Academies graduates. Chairman of the academy's Board of Trustees, Monsignor Raouf Najjar, thanked the Queen for patronising the event and outlined the aims and programmes of the academy which was founded in 1989.

Al Hassan meets Chinese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Wang Changyi met Sunday with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sattar Al Hassan and reviewed with him the Middle East peace process. Mr. Hassan spoke about Jordan's economic difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian refugees problem and the U.N. sanctions on Iraq. The two sides called for the lifting of the U.N. embargo and ensuring Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity.

2 charred in car accident

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two men were burnt beyond recognition at dawn Saturday following a tragic road accident on the Rweishid desert highway, in Al Ushque area, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) and Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

Mohammad A.M. Thiabat, 33, and Tayser R. Thiabat, 17, died as a result of first degree burns when the tanker filled with crude oil they were riding lost control, rolled over and was engulfed by fire, the reports said.

"Apparently both the driver and the passenger were stuck inside the truck and where unable to escape the blaze," a PSD official told the Jordan Times.

According to PSD reports, police were first unable to identify the two

bodies which were burnt beyond recognition as was the tanker and its plates.

A CDD official informed the Jordan Times that crude oil burns easily and it is very hard to control a fire started by it.

"Unfortunately, when our rescue units arrived, the fire had already destroyed the whole tanker," the CDD official said.

Fend over sheep

Also on Saturday, in Karak, fire shots were exchanged between two tribes in Jaloul area, PSD reports said.

The report said that a group of shepherds started shooting at another group because their sheep were grazing on their land.

Two people were injured as a result, and one of them listed in critical condition.

Police said they have solved the problem in a tribal fashion.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Opening of the Third Youth Theatre Festival with recital of a play entitled "When the Moon Sets" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Greek film entitled "Pygmalion Dans Le Brouillard" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Dana Project for the Conservation of Nature" by Dr. Eduardo Zandri and Salwa Sukhman at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Painting exhibition by Naila Deeb on the Goethe-Institut at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Sophia Ziadah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery in Mecca Street.
- ★ An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition," by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fradi at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthman (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Child Needs Expo at the International Motor Exhibition, Airport Highway (Tel. 653636).
- ★ Exhibition of photographs by artist Mohammad Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artist Shawkat Al Alousi at the Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 672872).
- ★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.

Fashion extravaganza to benefit the needy youth at music conservatory

By Ica Wabbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Hailed as a social and cultural event by both organisers and beneficiary, the fashion-jewellery show to be held on June 23 at the Philadelphia Hotel will certainly be an event for the dormant capital city this summer.

The show, whose stars will be bridal dresses, but where evening, cocktail and graduation dresses created by renowned Italian designers Sorelle Fontana house and Graziella Borella will also be on display, will see on the catwalk four international and six local models. Held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the show's benefits will go to the needy and talented students of the National Music Conservatory.

The initiator of the event is Rabab Malhas, of the Barlanti Jewellers, who be-

lieves in promoting charitable activities while stressing the role of the private sector in providing aid.

Barlanti Jewellers' concept of creation is novel. While not shunning foreign products, the store works hard at developing their own line, following the national artisans' model with a view to later exporting their craft.

Strongly believing in the national potential, Ms. Malhas also trusts universal values that could serve a cause.

The wedding dress, she says, was chosen because it symbolises a universal act, known to and recognised by all peoples in the world. As for jewellery, no other objects could be more universal than a bracelet, a pendant or a wedding ring.

Helping in putting up the show is Sunflower Tours of Italy. Extremely active on the Jordanian touristic scene, the organisation helped bring in a consider-



able number of tourists after the Gulf war and is still one of the best marketing agents for Jordanian tourism.

The dresses on display are the product of European haute couture. With designers like Sorelle Fontana, two of the most creative and detailed designers in the business who have dressed celebrities like Jacqueline Kennedy, Joan Collins and Audrey Hepburn, and Ms. Borella, a first class designer of wedding dresses, the show is guaranteed to be a success.

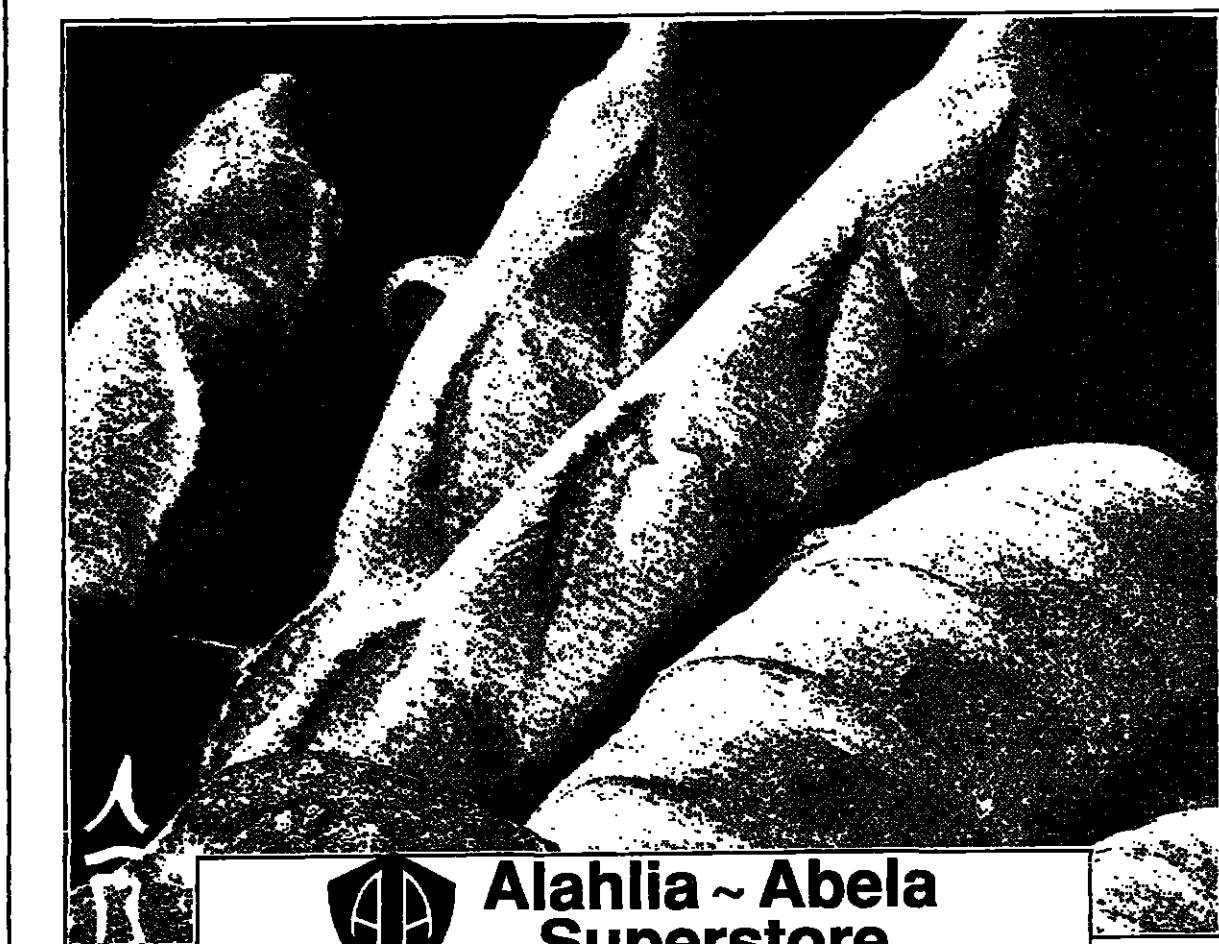
A \$8,000 dress will be given to the winner of the raffle at the end of the show.

The models will have a

photo session in Petra. The pink city will appear on the cover of fashion magazines, helping promote this touristic place in the Kingdom.

Kefah Fakhouri, director of the National Music Conservatory, said at a press conference prior to the event that the show will provide the "so much needed" support for this non-profit organisation and will establish good channels of communication with the private sector which can be of assistance.

"The National Music Conservatory is a national responsibility," he said, stressing that different private organisations should and do cooperate to see it succeed.

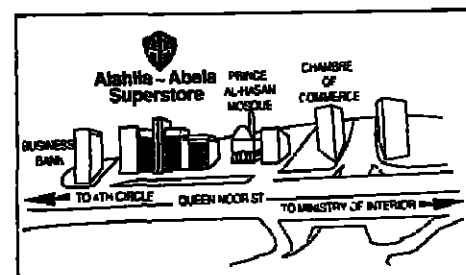


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Jordan Times

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Bridging the gaps

THE WORLD BANK is giving the Jordanian economy a clean bill of health after Jordan met most, if not all, of the bank's recommendations for attaining self-reliance. This much was made known by Ram Chopra, the head of the bank's Al Mashrek Division, who said Saturday that Jordan had in fact confounded expectations in bouncing back in 1992 to achieve an impressive 11 per cent economic growth. Mr. Chopra was fair enough to admit that most of Jordan's economic woes stemmed "from a series of shocks that were imposed on it by regional and international developments." No doubt the World Bank official was thinking of the waves of refugees that hit Jordan, the Gulf crisis that brought the Jordanian economy to a standstill and the Middle East conflict that continued to strain the resources of the Kingdom. Between the lines it could be presumed that at least part of the problem lies within us as well notwithstanding the external factors that are mainly responsible for the economic hardships still felt by Jordanians.

Where we may part company with the perspective of the World Bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, is over the apparent lack of concern for the plight of the poverty-stricken Jordanians who now make up a sizeable portion of the Jordanian population. It is one thing to cement a strong foundation for the Jordanian economy and solidify the infrastructure of the country in order to put us closer than ever to self-reliance but quite another to accomplish these economic feats at no considerable social and political cost.

Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib pointed to this dimension of the problem when he defended the country's non-compliance with all the economic prescriptions of the World Bank. "The bank has always tried to convince us to accept conditions and covenants which it felt are in the best interest of Jordan," the minister commented during Saturday's ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the World Bank in Amman. "Usually they were, but not always," Dr. Khatib continued to say on that occasion.

The minister of planning has hit the nail on the head when he explained why Jordan "rebelled" a bit here and there when he said that Jordan resisted some of the bank's conditions, "not because they were not rational, but because they are not always in the best interest of political and social considerations of the country."

In other words, whereas the bank can afford to be cold blooded about its recommendations to developing countries, we cannot afford but to be compassionate in following through these proposals. With emotions running high in these contemporary times when the peace process is still less than half way in attaining its objectives and the poverty line in the country assuming new ominous heights, Jordan cannot afford to be just "rational" or "functional" in pursuing its economic development goals. Otherwise we could end up destroying with one hand what we may have constructed by the other. Bridging the gap between the haves and the have-nots in the country must always be our guiding light as we charter our course in the direction of economic self-reliance.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN AN editorial entitled the Palestinian refugees and their unknown future, Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday criticised the world community for separating the refugees question from the Palestine issue, which is part of the Middle East problem. Separating the refugees question from their problem prior to arranging for their settlement in Arab countries, something which is resisted not only by the Palestinian people themselves but also by the Arab states hosting the refugees, said the daily. Imposing a solution on the region without settling the refugees issue in a satisfactory manner leaves the whole peace process limping, added the daily. Furthermore, said the daily, any disregard for Jordan's legitimate demand for compensation for shouldering the bulk of the refugees burden all these years and overlooking the Kingdom's legitimate demand for the return of its occupied land and water resources are bound to render futile any talk about permanent peace in the Arab World.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Sunday expressed dismay with Parliament's reluctance to debate and endorse the new draft labour law. It is a pity that such important law is being purposely delayed by the deputies though it promises good benefits for the workers and caters to the recent developments in the labour movement in the country, said Jamal Najj. The writer said that it is pity that the people who elected the deputies that are failing them now cannot oust them from office for their obvious failure to demand from the government that the draft law be immediately put on the agenda for debate, said the writer. The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions is also to blame for failing to lobby the deputies into demanding that the government respond to their demand and pass the new law that would protect workers gains and better organise the relationship between employers and workers in the country.

Human Rights File

Jordan's human rights encounter

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

IT IS now official, Jordan's date with the International Human Rights (HRC) is set for July 5. The occasion will be to probe once again into the country's human right record within the framework of the International Covenant and Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This will be the third time that the country is subjected to close scrutiny by the 16-member tribunal that man the committee. Two years ago Jordan was represented by the current Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad, who was then undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior. With all candour, Mr. Hamad did very well in explaining the country's commitment to the provisions of the covenant but was nevertheless served with judicious notice that there are still many shortcomings in Jordanian legislations and practices that needed attending to.

Having headed the one-man delegation to the HRC summer meeting in 1992, Mr. Hamad had hardly a moment to reflect on the volley of inquiries put to him, much less to respond to them in full.

The first lesson to be drawn from that 1992 experience is never to send a one-man or two-men delegation for such a complex and painstaking dialogue with jurists well versed in the jurisprudence of the ICCPR. The second point in this context is to prepare ourselves for the period of that transpired since that year. The HRC has compiled a list of issues that it intends to pursue with the Jordanian delegation but one can never count on the human rights panel to confine themselves to the written subjects. Much more will surely be posed, especially in view of the fact that non-governmental organisations, both national and international, can be expected to shower the members with additional concerns.

Several such NGOs were in fact prepared for the missed

round in March of this year. They can be expected not only to make bones about the absence of the Jordanian delegation in March but also to prepare additional topics that they would wish the members of the human rights to add to their own respective lists of concern.

Before going any further in offering some guidelines for the upcoming Jordanian confrontation with the HRC, I hasten to point out that we are already in deep trouble for not distributing its third periodic report nationally. The Jordanian report is not classified information and it is already published and disseminated by the U.N. as an official document. Judging by past experiences, the human rights experts would want to know why we have not given copies of the report to the public, especially to people who are connected with the human rights cause. We still have 10 days or so to remedy this omission and I would therefore recommend very seriously that immediate efforts be taken to rectify this fault. It is definite that all the members will inquire why the country's report has not been published before its consideration by them.

There is no harm in doing so right away and every harm in refraining from doing so soon. It is not expected that the report will be distributed free of charge to every man and woman on the street. What is expected is to make it available to Parliament, the judiciary, the lawyers' association, the press, local NGOs and the universities.

We have a lot to be proud of already. Surely we still have to go some more before we can assert that we have met our treaty obligations under the ICCPR. But this is the name of the game. No state party has been able to meet all its obligations under the covenant even though they are legally obligated to do so. The difference between conventions and U.N. resolutions lies in the fact that the former impose legal obligations and the latter hands down only political commitments, unless of course they are adopted by the U.N.

Security Council.

That is why when HRC acts as an appeal court with reference to private complaints that are presented to it under the Optional Protocol, it makes rulings that over turn court decisions of the highest courts of the land subject of such complaints. The HRC has reversed supreme court decisions of many countries which have acceded to the Optional Protocol and its judgements are heeded as if they pronounced by the highest judicial organ of the country.

The moral of this writing is to view the deliberations and judgements of the HRC as legally binding on Jordan. Jordan has made great strides in the development and consolidation of its democratic process. Human rights causes have been hailed by both His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as pivotal for the overall progress of the Kingdom. We cannot afford to even appear as "underdeveloped" in the presentation of our reports to the various international human rights fora. We certainly do not deserve an ugly face in our international encounters. Those of us who go out of their way to mar our image by not taking seriously our treaty obligations should be reprimanded.

In the final analysis, we need to establish an authority to deal with such international obligations. Other countries have either created a high post for human rights or made serious efforts to establish an effective agency for this purpose. In my estimation, anybody who ridicules the creation of such machineries or frustrates their establishment is guilty of harming the national interest and image. I hope and trust that both King Hussein and Prince Hassan will spearhead the campaign to institutionalise our commitments under the various international treaties. Otherwise there appears to be no hope that such proposals will ever see the light of day.

M. KAHIL



Romanian politicians gear up for battle

By Peter Humphrey
Reuters

BUCHAREST — Romanian politicians are drawing up battle lines for a showdown this week which could affect the authority and future of the minority left-wing government and President Ion Iliescu.

The opposition geared up to attack the rulers on two fronts on Monday with a no-confidence motion planned against Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and a bid to impeach Mr. Iliescu for violating judicial independence on property disputes.

The opposition is also pondering a parliamentary boycott. The atmosphere was inflamed by an apparent victory last week by trade unions, who extracted pay concessions after a three-day protest in Bucharest by thousands of workers that almost ended in violence on Mr. Vacaroiu's office doorstep.

Interim Minister Doru

Ioan Taracila refrained from using riot police against protesting workers only after union bosses warned him it would seriously harm Romania's image abroad.

"The political climate is moving towards boiling point," a Romanian political analyst said.

"The end of this parliamentary season (this month) will be extremely tense and hard to predict," the pro-establishment Cronica Romana said in an editorial.

On Friday Mr. Iliescu rejected an invitation of the opposition alliance led by the National Peasant Party to come and explain to parliament why he recently urged local councils to disregard court rulings that had ordered the return of houses nationalised by the Communists to their owners.

The opposition has prepared an impeachment motion on constitutional grounds if Mr. Iliescu, a former senior Communist, refuses to address the assembly.

Blaming the press and opposition for stirring up unrest, Mr. Iliescu appealed for "calm and reason" in a statement issued through his spokesman Traian Chebeleu. He accused the opposition "defamation, slander, lies, fabrications and offences."

The opposition appears to be buoyed by bad ratings for Mr. Iliescu in a confidential poll ordered from the Ipsop Polling Institute by the government's general secretary.

The survey showed only 27 per cent of Romanians thought Mr. Iliescu was doing a good job, and 80 per cent felt the cabinet was indifferent to the woes of the 23 million population of this Balkan ex-Communist country, such as their struggle with almost 300 per cent inflation.

The Bucharest newspaper Meridian published exclusive extracts of the 130-page survey, which was leaked to the paper, a copy of the document was later also made

available to Reuters.

The survey was ordered amid speculation on the need for early elections, otherwise not due until 1996.

In a sign of concern about his image, state television has boosted news about Mr. Iliescu during the past two months, sometimes carrying four or five items on him in a single news programme in a cult-building style which reminded many Romanians of the days of Stalinist ruler Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed in 1989.

There have been signs of dissent in Mr. Iliescu's party of Social Democracy (PSD), which spearheads the dominant left-nationalist coalition in parliament.

When Mr. Iliescu summoned PSD politicians to Cotroceni Palace on Thursday to discuss a new education law he found himself at odds with nationalists in the party over the issue of ethnic minority education, the independent daily Adevarul reported.

Hungarian polls dispel myth of mighty ultra-right

By Emil Varadi
Reuters

BUDAPEST — Any fears that Hungary's radical right would emerge as a potent political force were shattered by last month's elections which exposed extreme nationalists as having next to no support.

Having played a vocal role in political life in the first four years after Communism, extreme right parties fell far short of the massive support they claimed to enjoy and will not be represented in the next parliament.

Their flagship organisation, the Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIEP) led by playwright Istvan Csaruka, captured only 1.59 per cent of the nationwide vote for party lists, well below the five per cent limit needed for parties to get seats.

Groups smaller than MIEP fared worse, facing difficulties collecting even the minimum 750 signatures required to field a candidate in elections that catapulted ex-Communist reformers in the revamped Hungarian Socialist Party back to power.

"A strong extreme right was a large bluff which was mercilessly exposed by the poll," said political scientist Laszlo Keri.

The poll's results revealed the MIEP had the most support in Budapest's wealthiest wards and less in workers' districts or rural areas, contradicting the party's claims to have "deep popular-national roots."

"The assumption that the losers of the transition (from Communism to capitalism) would vote for the extreme right or for the extreme left proved to be absolutely wrong," said political scientist Laszlo Bruszt.

Extreme rightists are often deeply religious intellectuals, doctors and professors who pursue the same extreme right, Christian and nationalist ideals that prevailed under Admiral Miklos Horthy, who ruled in Hungary between the two world wars, Mr. Bruszt added.

"They were a social caste which suffered much during the 40 years of communism," Mr. Keri said. Communists nationalised their factories and hotels, dumped them from their villas, blocked them from getting jobs, banned correspondence with members of their families who fled to the west and prevented them from travelling abroad," Mr. Keri said.

"Families have been ripped apart and many fled overseas, some stopping only when they got as far as Argentina," he added. "It's no accident that Csaruka gets much of his support from overseas. Their largest base is in Cleveland."

Hungary's radical right has more in common with the 1930s than with the

current era of economic crisis, Mr. Bruszt said.

"The elections showed the groups who wanted the Horthy era back had no power base anymore, that these aberrant intellectuals, who had been conditioned to snarl, to curse Communists, Jews, workers, peasants and neighbouring nations, did not exist in large numbers."

"So the extreme right will have to figure out something more modern to generate mass appeal," he added.

Hungarian voters not only deprived the extreme right of their parliamentary representation, but also kept the communist Workers' Party away from the legislative process.

But extreme rightists had a much greater influence on Hungarian politics than did headline Communists because they were at the heart of the ruling Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF), leader of the outgoing centre-right government.

Mr. Csaruka was one of the HDF's founding fathers and had been member of the HDF's top leadership until mid-1993, when then Prime Minister Jozsef Antall forced him out of the party. Even after the split Mr. Csaruka and his supporters, who established the MIEP, kept their seats in parliament.

In the eight months before the elections, the Csarukists used their proxies at the state broadcasting station to stop programmes and sack journalists critical of the right and extreme right, turning state television into a Stalinist-style propaganda machine, Mr. Keri said.

"Between two provocative programmes viewers could see lengthy portraits of 'true Hungarians' who waxed lyrical about their Hungarian identity," he added. "People fed up with it."

Mr. Csaruka's efforts were in vain as voters disenchanted with conservative rule turned to the Socialists. The liberal alliance of Free Democrats, another target of Mr. Csaruka's barbs, came a distant second but still well ahead of conservatives.

MIEP's Executive President Lajos Horvath said the outcome of election was not so bad.

"We don't consider these results a fiasco because we surpassed the one per cent limit and have become eligible for state support," Mr. Horvath told Reuters. "This support will enable us to build our national structure and become a serious political factor in future elections."

Neither Mr. Keri nor Mr. Bruszt believed power would automatically fall into the hands of the extreme right should the Socialists, like their conservative predecessors, fail to get a firm grip on the country's economic and social problems.

LETTERS

'Islam is the solution'

To the Editor:

I would like to answer some of the complaints raised by David Harris in his letter "Social borders." Being an American also, I can understand where he is coming from with some of his observations. I lived most of my life in the United States, before moving here 10 years ago. Since moving to Jordan, and converting to Islam, my attitude towards many things has changed. The most important one is the interaction between males and females. With reference to his comments about repressing sex, and boys torturing themselves that they plot to seduce women, this may or may not be true. But where is the real blame to be laid? According to Allah, and the Hadiths of the Prophet Mohammad, "young men, those of you who can support a wife should marry, for it keeps you from looking at women and preserves your chastity." But with the rising costs for marriage, and unemployment, this does pose a problem.

Granted, the men do stare, and sometimes it does get out of hand, but it is no different then the cat calls the women get near construction sites in the states, or all the sexual harassment complaints the courts are full of these days. But when males and females socialise together, especially with the way things are today, things are bound to happen. Just look at the West with the rising level of teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (AIDS, etc), and the very profitable porn markets; the problems here seem less severe. Granted, this country, like all others, has its insufficient ways of handling certain problems. We need to go back to the teachings of the prophet because the answers are all there in his hadiths. Also the Kuran, which is Allah's words, needs to be reappplied to this society, for in a "true" Islamic society these incidents would not have occurred.

Tammy Habib,
Amman.

Plucking victory from jaws of defeat

By Alan Wheatley
Reuters

LONDON — John Major, always at his most dangerous when his back is against the wall, seems to have plucked victory from the jaws of a shattering defeat in Britain's elections to the European Parliament.

Although the ruling Conservatives slid to their worst ever performance in a national election, they did better than feared and the prime minister has paradoxically emerged with his job more secure than it has been in more than a year.

"He is the least divisive leader we have got and also the least disliked. I think that was manifest going around the doorsteps at the election," Conservative member of parliament Peter Temple-Morris said.

As parliament reconvened this week, there was muttering in conservative ranks about the party's poor showing but not the open revolt predicted after a rout in May's council ballots and a humiliating third place in last week's east-leigh by-election.

"The Conservatives have a mountain to climb before the next election but it is more easily surmountable than seemed likely in the aftermath of Eastleigh," David Butler of Nuffield College, Oxford, wrote in the Financial Times.

Mr. Major's European campaign, wrapping himself in the national flag to persuade anti-Brussels Conservative Eurosceptics to vote, may not have been pretty or principled.

Its effectiveness echoed his gritty performance in snatching general election victory against the odds in 1992 and he wasted no time in declaring he could and would lead the Conservatives to a fifth straight victory.

In a White-House style news conference on the lawn of his Downing Street residence as the final Euro-poll results were announced on Monday, Mr. Major sought to remake himself after the European defeat as a man not to be pushed around — not the first time his advisers have tried to show he has backbone.

"Do I look fed up? Do I look as though I am about to turn my back? The



John Major

answer is 'no'," Mr. Major said.

The chance to reassert his authority in next month's well-trailed cabinet reshuffle and, crucially, the lure of tax cuts before the election mean Mr. Major cannot not be written off.

Two more years of solid growth should help to dispel the impression of a drifting, incompetent government created by a long list of policy U-turns and minor scandals.

Although Labour recorded its best election result in 30 years, it needs a five per cent swing from its 1992 result — larger than it has achieved in any post-war election — to secure an overall majority in the next parliament.

Mr. Major pointed to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's victory in the Euro-poll, just months before Ger-

many's general election, to show that voters who make mid-term protests can be counted on to return to their natural political home in general elections.

"Labour's return was not on a scale that guarantees its return to government," Mr. Butler wrote.

What makes Labour leaders so cocky about their belief that Mr. Major's decision to break an election pledge and raise taxes is finally eroding voters' faith in the conservatives.

In essence, Labour has spent 15 years in opposition because it was not trusted to manage the economy and keep taxes down.

Now, with Britain still recovering from its deepest recession since the 1930s and its humiliating exit from Europe's currency grid, acting Labour leader Mar-

garet Beckett claims "the mantle of trust" has passed to Labour.

If, as expected, fresh-faced Tony Blair wins the contest to succeed the late John Smith, Labour will have a modern leader free of ideological baggage who — as fearful Conservatives readily admit — is well-placed to build up that trust.

In spite of Labour's resurgence, Mr. Major has concluded that he has no choice but to stick to his policies because voters would see through short-term gimmicks.

It is a risky strategy that Labour feels will play into its hands. "As far as John Major and his ministers are concerned it is the election, not the government, who got it wrong," Mr. Beckett said. "They are riding for a fall."

World Bank advocates inclusion of private sector in infrastructure

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The World Bank is calling on developing countries to look closely at the benefits of reforming the traditional government approach to investing and maintaining infrastructure and switching to giving the private sector a larger role which will not only address some of the problems but also help national economies perform better and secure higher returns.

The recommendation is the key theme in the World Bank's World Development Report for 1994 released in Washington. The report is issued every year by the World Bank focusing on different themes. Last year's report tackled world health; next year's topic is expected to be labour.

In Amman, Ashok Mody, one of the seven World Bank experts and researchers who prepared the 1994 report, presented its major findings and recommendations at a gathering last week, but the contents of the report were embargoed until Sunday night.

In his eloquent and thorough presentation, Dr. Mody said it was time governments of developing countries shed their traditional role as the sole builder and provider of infrastructure services and allowed a gradual entry of the private sector into the area.

The immediate return of relaxing the governments' "monolithic" approach to infrastructure will be major benefits in economic growth through diversified production, expanded trade, increased efficiency in meeting demands and improved environmental conditions, Dr. Mody said.

The report comes at a time when governments are finding increased constraints on their ability to meet demands for infrastructure because of tight budgets. As such, Dr. Mody said, "there are dramatic opportunities for the private sector" to step in and fill the gap if it is offered the right incentives.

The World Bank expert noted that one of the first steps towards allowing the private sector to step into areas so far held as exclusive government monopolies was "innovative regulation"

through amendments to legislation.

In many countries, the governments cite the need to "protect the poor" against private sector exploitation and to extend subsidies to the poor as the reason for keeping a tight grip on sectors such as water and energy, Dr. Mody noted.

But such arguments "in the name of the poor," he said, are not valid since, by and large, the protective measures and subsidies do not serve their intended purpose. While the need for extending help to the poor is very much there, the governments should seek to shift the nature of subsidies to financing the people directly rather than the usage of the utility.

For example, he said, many poor households in the developing world do not have connections to government-supplied water networks while huge amounts are spent as subsidies in the sector. Dr. Mody said the authorities could finance the actual connections for those who lack them and introduce a "block tariff" system under which those who consume beyond a average limit pay higher prices.

He said it was a myth that poor households would reject higher prices for water. The World Bank study has found that the poor — the bulk of whom do not have water connections anyway — will pay a reasonable price if the authorities will provide them with subsidised one-time connections and good services, he said.

At the same time, if efficiency is raised through cost-effective management and operations then the need to increase prices also goes down, he pointed out.

"More efficient, more accessible and less costly infrastructure services are also, of course, essential to more effective poverty reduction," World Bank President Lewis Preston wrote in a foreword to the World Development Report.

There are no hard and fast rules that are applicable across-the-board; nor is the assumption true that developing countries with limited financial resources are inefficient.

The study found that some low-income countries "manage to provide infrastructure services at best-practice

levels," according to Michael Bruno, chief economist at the World Bank. "It shows that good management is not limited to richer nations."

The developing world spends up to \$200 billion every year — or four per cent of their gross domestic product — in investing in infrastructure, but the spending does not have the desired effect, the report said. It said despite such massive allocations, two billion people — nearly one third of the world population — are without electric power, nearly two billion lack adequate sanitation and one billion have no access to clean water.

"To cope with these challenges involves not simply investing more," said the report. "It involves reducing inefficiency and waste and doing a better job of assessing and responding to demand."

In the energy sector, for example, Dr. Mody said, the governments could start with separating the three different phases: Generation, transmission and distribution. In the initial stages, the government could keep a close control over the sector by maintaining its role in one of the phases while letting the private sector manage the other two under regulate regimes, if need be, aimed at protecting the consumer from exploitation.

Dr. Mody conceded that one of the fallouts of such an approach could be layoffs, given the fact that state-run enterprises tend to be over-staffed and private sector entities would seek to reduce the number of staff. This could create a major problem in countries with high unemployment and no social security systems.

There are no ready-made solutions to the problem, the

"Infrastructure services in developing countries traditionally have been delivered by monopolistic public enterprises or government departments, whose officers seldom have the managerial and financial autonomy to do their work properly and whose customers, actual and potential, seldom have their demands heard, much less considered."

Dr. Mody said the developing world was losing an average of \$55 billion every year through inefficient cost-recovery and wastage. Hypothetically, the amount represents the cost of providing safe drinking water for one billion people for three years, he said.

"There should be a better methodology of cost recovery and increased efficiency," he said. In essence, infrastructure building and maintenance should be "run like an efficient business, a commercial venture."

An "unbundling" of government-controlled infrastructure is the first step in reform, Dr. Mody said. It means separating the various distinct phases of operations and services.

World Bank expert said. But he suggested several options to counter the problem; these included the setting up of a fund to compensate retrenched staff, including staff as "stakeholders," and granting contractual work rather than salaried employment.

Again, he said, the viability of these options varies from country to country and the concerned governments have to take their own decisions based on their circumstances and consideration.

But, he said, if the developing world has to achieve a better economic performance and advance towards a better life for its people, then it is inevitable that the governments adopt firm action towards allowing private sector participation in infrastructure building and maintenance.

Feuding undermines reconciliation in Zulu heartland

By Marins Bosch
Reuters

DURBAN — Feuding between the African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha Freedom Party could spark a fresh crisis in South Africa's volatile Zulu heartland.

Violence monitors say political killings are on the rise again after falling off in the immediate aftermath of the country's first all-race elections in April, when the ANC swept to power nationally.

More than 10,000 people were killed in a decade of political violence leading up to the election.

Bickering between the two political rivals has frustrated reconciliation attempts and posed problems for the new regional cabinet dominated by Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha.

Mr. Buthelezi only agreed at the last minute to take part in the April elections after holding out for virtual autonomy for the KwaZulu-Natal region.

The three ANC provincial ministers have boycotted cabinet meetings in the former KwaZulu black homeland capital Ulundi, an Inkatha stronghold, through fears for their safety.

Inkatha won control of the region after scraping a majority, with 50.3 per cent of the votes in the polls for a national parliament and nine provincial assemblies, sparking ANC claims of electoral fraud.

The ANC won 32.3 per cent and the National Party 11.2 per cent in KwaZulu-Natal.

ANC regional minister Sbu Ndebele told Reuters the political bickering could ignite a crisis.

"It makes reconciliation really difficult. I hope the realisation will come soon that we do not need this collision now," he said.



POTENTIAL VIOLENCE: Feuding between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party could spark a fresh crisis in S. Africa (AFP photo)

The provincial premier, Inkatha's Frank Mdlalose, said it was possible for the KwaZulu-Natal cabinet to take decisions without its ANC members.

Of their absence from the latest meetings he said only: "they didn't turn up, and that is that."

Last month 109 people were killed in KwaZulu-Natal compared to 338 in the violent run-up to the

elections.

The independent human-rights commission, in figures for the week ended last Tuesday, reported 10 dead and 38 wounded. Although the death toll was slightly down from 23 in the previous week, the number of wounded had soared from seven.

"Things are definitely starting on the up again. Regional and national

attempts at reconciliation do not mean much," said violence monitor Adrian Pole.

Mr. Ndebele said the ANC had decided to drop court action over the alleged voter fraud in the interest of reconciliation.

But he said the ANC remained powerful at grassroots level and could have made the region ungovernable through mass protests

if it had decided to contest the election results.

Inkatha wants Ulundi to replace Pietermaritzburg as the capital of KwaZulu-Natal. Already five Inkatha cabinet ministers are running their departments from Ulundi.

Businessmen and the ANC want Pietermaritzburg to remain the capital for commercial reasons and because it was already established as a regional

seat with ample infrastructure from the previous white administration.

Inkatha favours Ulundi, the traditional Zulu capital and home to Buthelezi and most of his ministers.

A simple majority in the regional legislature is all that is required to change the capital. And officials have accused Inkatha of trying to force the issue.

ANC firebrand and national member of parlia-

ment Peter Mokaba told a Durban rally during the past week that the ANC would not accept Ulundi as a capital.

Mr. Ndebele said Mr. Buthelezi, the former KwaZulu homeland chief minister and now home affairs minister in Nelson Mandela's coalition cabinet, was still firmly in control of KwaZulu-Natal, traditional home of South Africa's 8.5 million Zulus.

"He is not trying (to run it). He is running it," he said.

Mr. Pole, regional coordinator for a nationwide network of independent monitors, said people were still being hounded out of ANC or Inkatha strongholds if they did not support the "right" party.

"Ultimately all the conditions for political violence are still there," he said.

Report: Third World could save \$178b a year by better management

WASHINGTON (AP) — A report by the World Bank says more money in poor countries to users of transport and electricity has come under attack from private aid groups as they push for more.

The report, which marks the bank's 50th birthday, says the bank is re-emphasizing its original mission: Helping the poor.

A group of private aid groups called "50 years in progress" bitterly criticised its report as showing unwillingness to admit mistakes.

The bank is so concerned about the poor, why does it suggest raising income taxes on the rich? income neighbour and use this money to pay for the poor, rather than in the poor? asked Gregory Ingram, executive director of the Institute for

Transportation and Development Policy, in a statement.

If users of water, railroads and electricity alone paid their full cost, governments of poor countries would collect another \$123 billion a year in revenue, according to bank estimates. Making such projects more efficient could save another \$55 billion a year.

The estimates appear in the bank's annual "World Development Report 1994," made public Sunday. The bank, owned by 177 countries, is the largest source of aid to poor countries — it lends about \$25 billion a year and makes a profit.

The bank maintains that its programmes have helped the poor.

"Countries that have made concerted efforts to improve basic infrastructure in rural areas — such as Indonesia and Malaysia — have reduced poverty dramatically," said Gregory Ingram, who

led the team that produced the report.

The bank has estimated the income of the average Malaysian at \$1,870 in 1982 and \$2,790 a decade later. But during that period, incomes declined in many African countries despite billions of dollars in aid.

The bank's report argues that improving public services would help the poor and save money for governments.

Running water means women and children spend less time fetching from the well, better rail service gets commuters to work faster. Improved roads cut the cost of bringing crops to market.

It emphasizes maintaining services as well as extending them.

"In Africa, for example, a dollar of road maintenance saves \$4 in new road construction," said the bank's president, Lewis Preston, in a statement on the report.

Presenting the report at a

news conference, Mr. Ingram put the case for maintenance another way.

"It isn't just the installed generating capacity, but the fact that the machine starts or the light goes on when you turn the switch, that generates the benefit," he said.

He noted that in Nigeria, where an unusually high 82 out of every 100 households have electricity, an even larger proportion of companies — 92 out of every 100 — have backup generators for use when power fails.

Mr. Preston estimated that the number of families that can get clean water has increased by half in 15 years, and power production has doubled. But he said a billion people still lack clean water and two billion lack electricity.

The report recommends that public services be handled like businesses rather than like government bureaucracies. Competition

should be brought in wherever possible, it says.

But it points out that privatisation is not always the answer.

In the tiny African republic of Guinea-Bissau, the foreign aid poured into its electricity plant over 10 years was three times the plant's estimated value. So the government made a contract with a foreign management team.

At first, interruptions were reduced, sales and capacity went up.

But this year, shortages and interruptions began again.

In the private sector, theft of current was rampant. The team couldn't collect bills from the government, which insisted on continued service anyhow.

So the team was having trouble finding money not only for expansion but even to pay current expenses, the report says.

New Italian government faces hard market test

MILAN (R) — The fledgling government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi faces the judgement of the financial markets this week as it struggles to overcome a growing lack of confidence in its economic policies.

Italian financial markets plunged last week as worries grew that Mr. Berlusconi's free-market administration would face problems stopping government accounts going even further into the red.

"It would be worrying if the turbulence of the markets continued over the next few days," Treasury Minister Lamberto Dini said Friday.

The administration Friday reaffirmed its commitment to controlling its finances after a week in which the stock market fell nearly eight per cent and government bond prices dropped sharply, shedding over six percentage points.

Mr. Dini has promised that a recent court ruling forcing the government to pay up to 30 trillion lire (\$19 billion) in

back pensions to 600,000 people would not hit Italy's accounts.

He said the government would study new laws to neutralise the ruling or would pass revenue-raising measures to claw some of the cash back.

The government also committed itself to stabilising the relationship between economic growth and the deficit by 1995, a year ahead of previous targets.

"It is a strong statement on debt and growth that might be enough to stabilise markets," said Mario Noera, economist at Banca d'America e d'Italia Sunday.

"But it is not enough to declare ambitious targets, not enough to change the bad mood of the market," he added.

Mr. Dini, whose job it is to ensure that Italy's budget deficit — the difference between spending and income — does not overshoot its already huge 160 trillion lire (\$100 billion) target, said the

economy would grow by 2.4 per cent next year.

"They are pulling numbers and making bold predictions, there is nothing there that the market does not already know," said Clayton Perry, analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston in London.

"The one thing they have shown is their ability to procrastinate... the markets will be sick," he added.

Financial analysts are worried that Mr. Berlusconi, elected in March on a job-creation and tax-cutting programme, will not be able to keep a lid on Italy's soaring debts.

The rich media barons' promises that the government would keep a grip on its accounts have been criticised for what many economists see as their vagueness.

On June 10, Rome's Constitutional Court added to their worries by overturning a 1983 law capping double pensions and demanding that the government pay the cash back.

Arab fund builds emergency reserves

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab League's main financial institution is building an emergency reserve to face crises after it was hit by a major embezzlement operation and arrears from other members.

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said its governing council, which groups Arab states and economy ministers, approved the emergency reserve in 1989 and it has steadily grown from income yielded by the AMF's overseas investments.

In its annual report released Sunday, it said the board had allocated 25 million Arab Accounting Dinars (AAD) (\$185 million) in the first year and a minimum five million AAD (\$21 million) annually. By the end of 1993, the emergency reserve reached 50 million AAD (\$210 million).

"An emergency reserve has been set up according to a decision by the governing board to be used in offsetting any unexpected losses," it said. "The reserve is financed

through an allocation of five million AAD (\$21 million) every year or 10 per cent of the AMF's income. Allocations will continue until the reserve reaches 25 per cent of the AMF's capital."

The AMF was set up in Abu Dhabi in 1976 with a paid-up capital of 326 million AAD (\$1.37 billion) with the aim of helping member states in tackling their balance of payment deficits through soft-term loans. It has provided more than \$2.5 billion in loans to its 21 members.

But lending activity sharply slowed down after the 1990-1991 Gulf war before it came to a standstill in 1994 due to accumulating arrears.

The creation of the emergency reserve followed swelling arrears and alleged embezzlement of nearly \$80 million by former AMF chairman Jawad Hashem during his term of office in the early 1980s.

Mr. Hashem, a former Iraqi planning minister who has Canadian citizenship, was sentenced by an Abu Dhabi court for more than 240 years in absentia on 47 charges while five of his aides got smaller prison terms.

The AMF has sought his return through Interpol but such attempts have failed because there is no extradition treaty between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and

Canada, where Mr. Hashem is currently living.

One of his convicted aides, Mohammad Mehdi Saleh Bahr Al Umm, has recently been arrested in Lebanon, which is considering a request to extradite him to the UAE to serve the sentence against him. Mr. Hashem, Mr. Bahr Al Umm, ex-director of the AMF investment department, and other defendants have denied the embezzlement charges.

The AMF won a multi-million-dollar suit against Mr. Hashem in London last year but it continued to suffer from arrears, which have drained nearly half its resources and forced it to freeze activities in defaulting members.

UNEP says new trade rules will not be protectionist

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has moved to assure developing countries that environment-protection conditions in forthcoming global trade rules would not be a disguised form of protectionism.

"We do not, in our effort to create new and more liberalised trading regime, put up green protectionism in the guise of an open trading system," said Elizabeth Dowdeswell, executive director of the UNEP, the global environment watchdog.

But Mr. Dowdeswell said that the UNEP hoped all international environmental pacts agreed upon by developing and developed countries would be considered by the new World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"I want to be very sure that in a new world trading regime, we don't throw out those international environ-

mental agreements," she said.

The WTO will on Jan. 1 replace the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which has operated on an interim basis since 1947, and will have more extensive powers to enforce the rule of the law in international trading relations.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 20, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Begin this new week properly by scheduling your work wisely, then devote more time to important matters first. Study your monetary position wisely and protect your present investment position.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study personal financial matters and make sure your records are correct. If you have any doubts, consult an expert who can give you the right information.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan the most practical way to gain personal goals and get wheels rolling without delay. Avoid one who is tricky and will try to get the better of you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Sit in the quiet of your study and plan how to gain whatever means the most to you. Show that you are thoughtful towards the feelings of others.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try to please those in high position and gain the support you need. Listen to what an expert has to say about a new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go after your aims in a positive manner and gain fine benefits at this time. Analyse your progress in the evening for your greatest opportunity.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be more alert to new ways of doing things so that you get better results in the future. Maintain a pleasant manner towards those around.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Cooperate more with persons you deal with in business and get better results. Make sure to improve your appearance for those you encounter.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to please an associate more and prevent possible misunderstandings. Strive to be more successful in whatever is your business area.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have many tasks to handle during the day, so do them efficiently and forget about going on a pleasure spree which could cost you money.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Go to the right source for the data you need. Stop putting off important duties at hand and gain added benefits which you truly desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go head with plans to improve conditions at home after consulting family members. Budget your money wisely to have some for the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make long-range plans that can bring excellent benefits in the future. You can easily gain a personal aim now, you have desired for some time.

BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen.

It's stay all night and watch the sunrise together!

If we rent a sunrise on tape, we can watch it and still get to sleep early!

GLASBERGEN

Peanuts

IF WE'RE A COUPLE OF FARM DOGS, OLAF, DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING?

DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE USEFUL?

WE ARE USEFUL.

IF WE MOVE, THE BARN WILL FALL DOWN.

Andy Capp

CAN YOU SPARE ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE, PET?

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

I FEEL I SHOULD OFFER JULIE A GAME OF POOL. SHE'S BOYFRIEND IS WORKING NIGHTS.

AND?

HE TRUSTS HER SO MUCH THAT SHE FEELS SHE CAN NEVER HAVE MUCH FUN.

IF HE CAN HELP SOMEBODY.

Mutt'n'Jeff

YOU'RE ONLY IN THIS COUNTRY FOUR YEARS AND YOU HAVE \$50,000?

HOW DID YOU GET IT, TONY?

WHEN I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY I BORROWED TEN DOLLAR FISH!

NEXT YEAR I BUY A PUSH CART! I BUY MORE FISH! I SELL FISH!

NEXT YEAR I OPEN STORE! I BUY FISH, SELL FISH, SELL FISH, BUY FISH!

LAST YEAR I OPEN TWO STORES I WORK DAY AND NIGHT! I BUY FISH, SELL FISH, SELL FISH, BUY FISH!

LAST WEEK MY MOTHER-IN-LAW DIED! SHE LEAVE ME \$50,000!

THE Daily Crossword by Valentina Barnes

ACROSS

- 1 State
- 4 Farm workers
- 6 Rubbish
- 14 Chain
- 15 Courtyard
- 16 Lacking worldwide
- 17 Kindergarten
- 18 Temperance
- 19 Narrow roads
- 21 Photo
- 23 Early garden
- 24 Take umbrella
- 26 Small child
- 29 Early galaxy
- 30 Shred
- 31 Ship's master who commands
- 35 Bizarre
- 36 Ship in action
- 37 Tote
- 38 Flow perch
- 40 Commerce
- 41 Arrived
- 42 Off the sea
- 44 Branch
- 45 Feast or
- 46 Price
- 48 Early calculator
- 52 Kitchen tool
- 53 Garret
- 55 Oases term
- 56 "Blue" "Ships"
- 58 Ford or Gentry
- 60 Cost weight
- 61 Small rags
- 62 Within another
- 63 Station
- 65 Fish

DOWN

- 1 Collier
- 2 Dish of greens
- 3 Level surface
- 4 Shortens a short
- 5 Dry, dry
- 6 Ultimate
- 7 Piece of furniture
- 8 Method
- 9 Start
- 10 Weather word
- 11 Ship's officer
- 12 St.
- 13 Division of footed
- 18 Urge
- 22 Vane letters
- 24 Geological act
- 25 God of love
- 27 Author Joyce
- 28 Lock of hair
- 29 Woody fiber
- 30 Algebraic weapon
- 31 Harrier
- 32 Following
- 33 Denotary
- 34 Strategem
- 35 Sledge
- 37 Spoil
- 38 Early English
- 39 Part of a brush
- 40 Gentleman's name
- 43 Entertained
- 45 Appal
- 46 Machine part
- 47 Declass
- 48 Attack
- 49 Inclination
- 51 one's time (wait)
- 52 Saucy
- 53 "Lay Dying" (Faulkner)
- 54 Wine
- 55 Gnat unit
- 57 Zodiac sign

Puzzle Solver:

ACROSS: 1. STATE, 4. FARM, 6. RUBBISH, 14. CHAIN, 15. COURTYARD, 16. LACKING, 17. KINDERGARTEN, 18. TEMPERANCE, 19. NARROW, 21. PHOTO, 23. GARDEN, 24. UMBRELLA, 26. CHILD, 29. GALAXY, 30. SHRED, 31. MASTER, 35. BIZARRE, 36. SHIP, 37. TOTE, 38. PERCH, 40. COMMERCE, 41. ARRIVED, 42. OFF, 44. BRANCH, 45. FEAST, 46. PRICE, 48. CALCULATOR, 52. KITCHEN, 53. GARRET, 55. OASES, 56. BLUE, 58. FORD, 60. WEIGHT, 61. RAGS, 62. WITHIN, 63. STATION, 65. FISH.

DOWN: 1. COLLIER, 2. DISH, 3. LEVEL, 4. SHORT, 5. DRY, 6. ULTIMATE, 7. FURNITURE, 8. METHOD, 9. START, 10. WEATHER, 11. OFFICER, 12. ST., 13. DIVISION, 18. URGE, 22. VANE, 24. ACT, 25. GOD, 27. JOYCE, 28. LOCK, 29. FIBER, 30. WEAPON, 31. HARRIER, 32. FOLLOWING, 33. DENOTARY, 34. STRATEGEM, 35. SLEDGE, 37. SPOIL, 38. ENGLISH, 39. PART, 40. NAME, 43. ENTERTAINED, 45. APPAL, 46. MACHINE, 47. DECLASS, 48. ATTACK, 49. INCLINATION, 51. TIME, 52. SAUCY, 53. DYING, 54. WINE, 55. GNAT, 57. ZODIAC.

مكتبة في لندن

Serb civilians flee Muslim offensive in central Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — More than 1,000 Bosnian Serb civilians have fled a Muslim offensive aimed at securing control of a strategic road in central Bosnia, Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) sources said Sunday.

They said the two-pronged Muslim attack on the settlement of Vozuca forced Serb women and children to seek refuge in nearby Doboj.

Fighting has continued in the region in spite of a temporary ceasefire which took effect across Bosnia earlier this month.

BSA forces defending Vozuca control a 10-kilometre stretch of the road between the Muslim strongholds of Zenica and Tuzla.

The sources said casualties during four days of fighting had been heavy on both sides but there had been no significant exchange of territory.

Inter-Muslim clashes continued in the rebel Muslim northwestern Bihać pocket according to media reports, although U.N. peacekeeping forces in the area described it as relatively quiet.

With the ceasefire in apparent jeopardy, conflicting signals emerged from the warring parties on the likely fate of a peace plan being prepared by the major powers.

The truce was intended to prepare both sides to end the 26-month war in Bosnia by accepting a long-term peace

plan being finalised by international mediators.

The plan is expected to stand or fall on the details of a map of Bosnia's ethnic division that will give the Muslim and Croat Bosnian Federation 51 per cent of the country and Serbs the rest. The Serbs have won control of 70 per cent in the war.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said the proposed division was "the only reasonable solution."

U.S. mediator Charles Redman, a member of the five nation "contact group" devising the peace plan, said in Zagreb Saturday that details of the proposed map had not yet been finalised.

The two sides in the Bosnian conflict differed strongly Saturday over whether the proposed map would be acceptable.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic told Reuters the newly formed Croat-Muslim Bosnian Federation would not block the peace deal and would probably accept the map backed by the major powers.

"I think the federation will try to find a solution with the contact group because our strong inclination is for peace," Mr. Granic said in the Swiss Alpine town of Crans-Montana, where Croatian and Bosnian officials were attending a business forum.

At the same venue Mohammad Filipovic, Bosnia's ambassador to Switzerland, said he expected the outline partition proposals to be approved by the Bosnian parliament when it meets next Wednesday.

But the speaker of the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament said further compromises would have to be made to secure Serb acceptance.

"If the contact group does not take our concerns into consideration then I am sceptical about the ultimate success of its proposal," Momcilo Krajisnik told Reuters in Pale, home of the Bosnian Serb leadership.

He said Bosnian Serbs would not give up control of towns with pre-war Muslim majority populations in eastern and western Bosnia as has been proposed.

Mr. Krajisnik said further talks between the Bosnian Serbs and international mediators would take place this week at an as yet unknown foreign location. He added that Bosnian Serb leaders also expected to meet Russian diplomats soon.

Maverick Muslim leader Fikret Abdic has his back to the wall as Bosnian government forces, freed by a temporary truce with separatist Serbs, move to regain control in his fiefdom of Bihać.

Near the frontline hamlet of Hasici, Mr. Abdic's men

were hastily digging a new network of trenches Sunday following the news that the village of Todorov, three kilometres down the valley, had just fallen to the Bosnian army 5th Corps.

With the ceasefire taking effect along the front line between separatist Serb and Bosnian army forces, the army's 5th Corps, entrenched in the southern part of the enclave, launched a new offensive which Mr. Abdic's raggle-taggle troops appear unable to contain.

U.N. military observers said that unless they received men and equipment from separatist Serbs in the neighbouring Krajina region of Croatia, Mr. Abdic's forces would be unable to contain the advance of the 5th Army Corps for much longer.

Rebel troops in Hasici were an air of unease as they manned their posts.

"The last civilian fled this sector two days ago," the commanding officer explained nervously.

Some of his men had no uniforms. The nearby woods and surrounding fields echoed with automatic weapons' fire.

"The balance of forces is very unfavourable for Abdic, 500 men against 15,000, a group of men little better than a militia up against a war-hardened army," a U.N. observer said on condition of anonymity.



LEAVING KIGALI: Soldiers of the government attacked by Hutu militiamen. The United Nations evacuated refugees caught up in fighting in Kigali, with transfers both to and from Colliers Hotel in Kigali, which had been rebel-held area (AFP photo)

China factory collapse toll hits 24

HONG KONG (AFP) — The death toll from a factory collapse disaster in southern China reached 24 Sunday, reports said.

Hong Kong radio said that according to an official toll, 100 of the 160 people injured in the collapse of a large textile factory in the Zhuhai special economic zone were still in hospital.

The report said 10 bulldozers were still clearing rubble in the search for survivors.

The six-storey Yu Xin Printing and Dyeing Factory — a Sino-Hong Kong joint venture — collapsed Friday, trapping more than 200 workers clearing up after a fire the night before.

It was the second time in as many weeks that an industrial building in China's most

dynamic region has fallen. A partilly built factory in nearby Shenzhen collapsed earlier this month killing 11 people.

The fire Thursday in a workshop when sparks caused by three men carrying out maintenance work ignited bales of cotton.

Nobody was killed in the blaze which was finally put out in the early hours of Friday morning. Workers began sifting the wreckage later in the day before the collapse.

Some reports suggested heavy rain during the night might have caused subsidence.

According to a local reporter, the three workers carrying out the maintenance that sparked the fire had been detained by police.

The Yu Xin factory, located inside Zhuhai's Qianshan Textile City, is a joint venture between a Hong Kong merchant and the Zhuhai Qianshan Industrial Co. and was among the biggest in the city with some 2,500 employees.

The Zhuhai disaster was the latest in a series that have raised serious concerns over administrators and businessmen putting profit ahead of safety.

The Chinese media has criticised foreign investors for ignoring safety standards as they rush to grab a slice of China's economic pie.

Shoddy construction was blamed for the collapse two weeks ago of the Shenzhen factory owned by a Hong Kong businessman.

All 12 die in Indonesian plane crash

JAKARTA (R) — All 12 passengers and crew onboard a light plane which crashed in rugged mountainous terrain in Indonesia's central Sulawesi province have been found dead, an airline official said Sunday.

"Rescuers found the seven passengers and five crew early this morning," Benny Achmad, spokesman for state firm PT Merpati Nusantara Airlines, which owned the plane, told Reuters.

He said a helicopter will be used to winch the bodies from the wreckage which was located earlier Sunday in a mountain ravine near Palu, 1,400 kilometres northeast of Jakarta.

A local government official earlier quoted a Palu resident as saying he saw a ball of fire streak across the sky before the Fokker 27 crashed on a mountain range late Saturday.

The aircraft was badly

damaged and did not look like there were any survivors," the official Antara News Agency had quoted another resident as saying.

The airline spokesman said the bodies could not yet be identified because of the impact of the crash which he said could have resulted from a sudden change in the weather.

"The authorities are still trying to determine why the plane crashed," he said.

Mexican soccer fans die in U.S. air crash

CHANTILLY, Va. (R) — Investigators probing a fatal plane crash of Mexican World Cup fans are focusing on fog and runway activity, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

Autopsies were being performed on all 12 people aboard the plane, including four children and two crew members, said Carl Vogt, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The privately chartered jet clipped trees before smashing into a heavily wooded area in suburban Virginia one-half mile, off the runway 56 kilometres from Washington.

The probe is expected to take at least eight months, Mr. Vogt told a news conference here late Saturday.

Mr. Vogt confirmed earlier reports by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that the aircraft abandoned one landing attempt before coming in again about 15 minutes later.

Weather conditions worsened slightly at the time of the first landing attempt, Mr. Vogt said. However, fog visibility remained approximately one-half mile from the time the plane was scheduled to land at 6:03 a.m. ed and the time it crashed at 6:25 a.m.

"Fog was within FAA tolerances, but in the final analysis, it is up to the pilots," a source at the airport who preferred to remain unidentified told Reuters that the conditions permitted landing.

Also, investigators are focusing on an aborted landing by a United Airlines DC-10, roughly 15 minutes before the crash.

O.J. Simpson put in solitary confinement

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson, once one of America's best-loved sports heroes, spent his second night in solitary confinement Sunday awaiting arraignment on two murder charges.

The fall of one of America's sporting icons, a man who rose from a gang-ridden ghetto in San Francisco to become one of the heroes of American football, spent his second day Sunday in a

sparsely furnished 9 foot by 7 foot (3 metre by 2 metre) cell in the Los Angeles County Jail — a far cry from his \$1.2 million mansion in the exclusive Brentwood section of the city, about 16 kilometres away.

He was being held on a "suicide watch" in his solitary cell, bereft of anything that he could possibly kill himself with, and under the constant watch of a guard.

Simpson's downfall, possibly the most publicised fall from grace in the history of sports, followed the gruesome murders late Sunday of his beautiful ex-wife, 35-year-old Nicole Brown Simpson and her handsome friend, Ronald Goldman, a waiter and aspiring model.

Simpson, 46, has been charged with the double murders with allegations of special circumstances.

Australia claims 1st in freezing human eggs

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian scientists claimed a world first Sunday in developing a reliable and safe method of freezing human eggs before fertilisation. Doctors had already removed and frozen eggs from four patients at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, all of whom were soon to lose the ability to produce normal eggs. Biochemist Debra Gook said her breakthrough could allow women to delay fertilisation and pregnancy years beyond the normal age limits for conception.

"The patients undergo a similar procedure to in vitro fertilisation (IVF) with hormone stimulation and egg recovery," she said. "But we can then stop the process and freeze the eggs."

"The breakthrough is that we now are going to offer this to cancer patients and IVF patients as an alternative for them. This has never really been offered anywhere in the world to my knowledge." Previous research on animals had suggested that freezing eggs, instead of embryos, could lead to abnormalities. However, Dr. Gook told AFP that she and colleague Susan Osborn at method of freezing eggs and five years of research suggested human eggs were more resistant than those of animals.

"We have taken the embryo freezing technology and modified it and we found that to be very successful. We have undertaken most of our research on human material and found that that is far more robust than animal material."

Women cancer patients, whose eggs might be damaged by radiation treatment, could store their own eggs and later have them fertilised and implanted in procedures already developed for IVF, known as test-tube fertilisation. Several U.S. egg donation institutions were "very keen to have the technology," Dr. Gook said, because it could drastically cut the cost of transferring one woman's eggs to another.

"They could take enough eggs from one donor and then store them and divide them between a number of recipients and that would decrease the cost of treatment." Of the four patients operated on to date, three were cancer patients and one had ovarian delivery problems.

Seoul police search for student leaders

SEOUL (R) — Police searched two Seoul university campuses Sunday, seeking to arrest student leaders who had organised Saturday's violent anti-government demonstrations in which 160 police and students were hurt.

A Seoul police officer confirmed that the search were carried out by more than 2,000 riot police but declined to give further details.

Yonhap, South Korea's domestic news agency, said during the pre-dawn search of the two campuses, police detained 74 students suspected of being involved in Saturday's violence and seized dozens of fire bombs, and wooden and iron bars prepared for demonstrations.

There was no violence during the sweep, the report said.

In the southern city of Kwangju, police also combed two universities in the city Saturday night to arrest student leaders, Yonhap said.

They made no arrests but seized about 2,000 items used for demonstrations during the search, it said.

About 300 students at Chonnam University, one of the two campuses, protested against the search by throwing stones at riot police. Police fired tear gas to disperse them, Yonhap said.

The searches were conducted after the national police officials ordered the arrest of student who led Saturday's violence in Seoul.

On Saturday about 500 students in anti-government and anti-U.S. demonstrations at Hongik University in Seoul, injuring about 110 riot police and 50 students.

During the clashes, the students tossed petrol bombs and wielded pipes at police who countered with tear gas.

Police said they had detained more than 70 students for taking part in the violence.

It was the first time students had used fire bombs during demonstrations in Seoul this year. Blazing petrol bombs had in years past been a regular feature of student confrontations with riot police.

Taipei refuses to accept China murder case as closed

TAIPEI (AFP) — China's execution Sunday of three men accused of the murder of a group of Taiwanese tourists has done little to ease a sharp deterioration in relations between Taiwan and mainland China, officials said here.

The officials said the execution of the men found guilty of killing 24 Taiwanese tourists in China was "rash and hasty" and would not be accepted as a satisfactory end to the case.

Taiwan has continued to insist that the three were not the only ones responsible for the March 31 attack on a tour boat, in which the tourists and eight mainland crews were killed.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said Wu Lihong, Hu Zhihan and Yu Aijun were executed Sunday morning after the local intermediate People's Court announced that the Provincial Higher Court had approved their death sentence.

The Intermediate Court sentenced the trio to death a week earlier after finding them guilty of theft and the murder of the 32 people during a boat trip on scenic Qiandao Lake in eastern Zhejiang province.

The killings sparked a dramatic downturn in relations between China and Taiwan, following a slow thaw in recent years between the long-time rivals.

Taiwanese relatives of the victims of the Qiandao incident boycotted the trial of the three accused, alleging a Chinese cover-up of army involvement in the affair.

The trial and the execu-

tions did nothing to allay Taiwanese suspicions, officials said here.

"The trial was hurriedly held, neglecting many suspicious points," said Su Chi, vice chairman of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council (MAC).

"It is obvious that they (China) just want to close the case quickly, but such a rash and hasty trial will do nothing to heal the wounds, as all the suspicious points remain unanswered," he added.

Taiwan intelligence officials said last month that at least 10 renegade People's Liberation Army soldiers were involved in the attack, and a Taiwan legislator said Chinese officials had quietly arrested and executed a group of soldiers for their involvement in the case.

China strenuously denied both accusations, calling them "sheer fabrication."

Mr. Su said bilateral relations between Taiwan and Beijing were bound to suffer further now that China has effectively closed the case.

With anger mounting in Taiwan in April over increasing suspicious surrounding the boat attack, and China continuing to insist the 32 people had died in an accidental fire, Taiwan imposed a travel ban on the mainland and stopped cultural and educational exchanges.

The travel ban has since been lifted but the other sanctions remain and the Economic Ministry has delayed approvals for the sale of Chinese-made semi-finished goods to Taiwan, an important market for China.

U.N. pursues peace efforts in Angola

LUANDA (R) — A U.N. envoy pursued peace efforts in Angola Sunday amid a surge in fighting in the nearly 20-year war between the government and UNITA rebels.

U.N. special representative Alioune Blondin Beye was in the capital Luanda to consult government officials after meeting rebel leaders in their central highland headquarters of Huambo Saturday.

No details were available of either meeting but diplomats in Luanda expressed scepticism over prospects for peace.

Fighting has increased across the country in recent weeks. The rebels were shelling the besieged government-held town of Cuito, state radio said.

Huambo has also come under renewed bombing from the government air force.

"It seems surreal," a senior aid official in Luanda said. "What they are talking about in Lusaka and what I am seeing on the ground here are two different realities."

The two sides have been meeting in the Zambian capital Lusaka for seven months.

Some diplomats see the intensified fighting as an

attempt by both sides to gain as much ground as possible before a peace deal is signed.

Others believe neither side is truly committed to the peace process and are instead intent on pursuing the military option.

"I just don't see the basis for a smooth agreement," one Western diplomat said.

The government launched an offensive in the north after recapturing N'Dalatando city earlier this month, moving slowly towards oil and diamond areas held by UNITA. It has also bombed rebel leader Jonas Savimbi's headquarters at Huambo.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) tightened its sieges of government-held cities, including Cuito and northern Malange.

Unofficial estimates say 25,000 and 40,000 people are trapped in battered Cuito with almost no means of obtaining food except from international aid flights, which are now suspended.

The government garrison, consisting of almost every male in town over the age of 16, has fought off repeated rebel attacks in three weeks of fighting which indepen-

dent sources say has killed hundreds of people.

UNITA last week withdrew safe passage guarantees for aid flights throughout Angola. A world food programme official said the move hit one million people and some areas are in critical condition.

The Lusaka talks have stumbled over whether UNITA should retain control of its headquarters in Huambo. Discus on national reconciliation have made little progress because of differences over how big a role UNITA should have in government.

Agreement was reached earlier on restructuring the police force and holding a second round of presidential elections.

Some diplomats say hawks and moderates in the government are split.

"There is no coherent front in the government which has decided what they want to achieve in Lusaka," said one diplomat.

"There are those whose attitude is that as long as they can be safe in Luanda and the oil keeps flowing they couldn't care less. A deal at Lusaka would imply changes in government which would threaten their jobs," he said.

attended by leaders from the four applicant countries. Austrians voted overwhelmingly in a referendum last week in favour of joining the union and the other three countries will hold referendums later this year.

Mr. Yeltsin will go to the summit seeking closer ties. He will get them in the form of the partnership agreement, which holds out the long-term prospects of an EU-Russia free trade accord.

Over dinner Thursday, the day before the summit is to get under way, Mr. Yeltsin is also expected to discuss relations within the old Soviet Union, notably in Georgia and the Crimea.

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Another summit may be called by Germany, which takes over the rotating EU presidency from Greece on July 1.

The summit will be

Search for new president will dominate EU summit

BRUSSELS (R) — European Union leaders are gearing up for a fight this week when they meet on the Greek Island of Corfu over who should be the next European Commission president.

In a summit designed to be heavy on ceremony, leaders of the 12-nation bloc will sign a partnership agreement with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, promising closer political ties and better trade links with Moscow.

They will also sign treaties with the leaders of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden inviting them to join the union next year in its largest expansion yet.

With the EU finally emerging from recession but still hammered in places by double-digit unemployment, the leaders are also to discuss the progress of economic stimulus plans agreed in their last meeting, in December in Brussels.

But most attention at the two-day summit that begins Friday will be on the contest

to replace Frenchman Jacques Delors as head of the commission, the union's legislative engine.

Mr. Delors, a Socialist, is retiring in January after 10 years in which he has raised the commission's profile and helped steer the union on its path to deeper integration.

The top candidates are Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene and Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, with EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, lobbying furiously for the job, an outside chance.

Mr. Dehaene, who broke months of silence Friday to announce his formal candidacy, is backed by France and Germany, the traditional powerhouses of EU decision-making.

If anything, however, their backing has spurred on Mr. Lubbers, who was for a long time considered to have sewn up the job and has now portrayed his success as a matter of national pride.

Sir Leon, an Englishman, is backed by his home country and has some support in Italy and Greece. But his nationality is considered a near certain disqualifier, given the British Conservative government's sceptical attitude to European integration.

This attitude is in turn likely to make it difficult for British Prime Minister John Major to back Mr. Dehaene, who is seen in some British quarters as being too much of an integrationist.

The EU leaders are to discuss the job appointment Friday evening over dinner, but diplomats in Brussels say with Mr. Lubbers refusing to back down and Mr. Dehaene far from the consensus candidate needed the summit may end without a decision.

attended by leaders from the four applicant countries. Austrians voted overwhelmingly in a referendum last week in favour of joining the union and the other three countries will hold referendums later this year.

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Olympics of Ballet under way

JACKSON, Miss (AP) — More than 137 dancers from 39 countries gathered and prepared to go toe-to-toe in a competition known as the "Olympics of ballet." The International Ballet Competition (IBC) is a two-week, three-dancers-a-side in which young dancers vie for gold, silver and bronze medals, as well as cash and scholarships. Past medalists include Mikhail Baryshnikov and Alexander Godunov.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا من ليل" (This is from the night)



A Tutsi boy hugs a baby refugee carried by a Ghanaiian U.N. soldier in Kabonga, in the outskirts of Kigali, where the United Nations evacuated hundreds of refugees fleeing fighting in the Rwandan capital (AFP photo)

Fighting restarts in Rwandan capital as France pushes plan

KIGALI (R) — Heavy fighting erupted in the Rwandan capital Kigali early Sunday with rebels and government forces exchanging mortar, artillery and small arms fire across frontlines dividing the tomb-like city.

Explosions boomed around the hills of the central African city and bursts of heavy machinegun fire crackled around sandy, blood-drenched streets.

Multiple rocket launchers were also heard for the first time in days, fuelling speculation the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) was intent on delivering a knockout blow before the arrival of an outside military intervention force.

A large column of black smoke wound into the sky above the government part of the city.

In Paris, French President Francois Mitterrand said Saturday his crack troops — veterans of African crisis — would arrive within days. He told a symposium they would lead an international force of other African and European countries.

France said it would send troops to Rwanda to save innocent civilians after the international community came under fire for failing to act to stop the genocide.

Aid groups say as many as 500,000 people may have been slaughtered since the April 6 killing of President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundi counterpart Cyprien Ntaryamira in a rocket attack on a plane returning from a regional summit.

But France's promised intervention could lead to more bloodshed and make peace even more elusive.

The RPF holds Paris partly responsible for the massacres by government forces and their militia allies and says it will resist French troops.

France gave financial and material support to Mr. Habyarimana's government and trained his fiercely loyal Presidential Guard which took revenge on its opponents after his death.

"It is not for the French to intervene. It is for us to do ourselves," said RPF spokesman Major Wilson Rutayisire, saying that a rebel victory was the only way to stop the massacres.

RPF fighters, who draw most of their support from exiled Tutsis, remember bitterly how French troops blocked their advance on Kigali in 1990 when Mr. Habyarimana's forces were crumbling before their advance from the Ugandan border.

The United Nations said it managed to evacuate to safety Saturday several hundred civilians trapped by the fighting. More forays were planned for Sunday.

But eight weeks after Rwanda was plunged into an orgy of political and ethnic bloodshed by the murder of its president, the killings still go on.

U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) military spokesman Major Guy Plante told reporters peacekeepers counted at least 50 bodies being loaded onto trucks outside the Sainte Famille Church complex in government-held territory.

"We saw 50 bodies being taken out, we estimate there are about 1,500 people still left there," he said.

Mr. Plante said it was not clear if the dead had been killed during a raid by the RPF on the complex to try and rescue members of the minority Tutsi tribe held hostage by the dreaded Hutu Interahamwe militia.

Militiamen retaliated for the raid, in which 600 Tutsi refugees were saved, by attacking the Hotel Milles Collines and slaughtering an unknown number of Tutsis sheltering there.

Maj. Plante said the U.N. had since evacuated all refugees wishing to leave the hotel to safety.

"As far as we are concerned, there is no one left there who wishes to leave," he said, adding the U.N.'s small force in the city would try and evacuate the refugees from Sainte Famille Sunday.

But heavy fighting around the complex Sunday delayed planned UNAMIR rescue missions.

"We are fighting down in the centre of town hard today," RPF soldier Evariste Burugeya told Reuters.

"Our soldiers advance, and save people who have been hiding in buildings," he said, describing the rebel strategy of infiltrating urban areas, saving Tutsis and withdrawing again.

A Red Cross worker was killed Sunday when a mortar hit a hospital complex in the centre of Kigali, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Maj. Plante said the dead man was believed to be a local employee of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

At least three other people were wounded in the incident but no other details were yet available, Maj. Plante said.

It was not immediately clear if the mortar was fired by advancing rebels or their government foes battling to defend the city centre.

Maj. Plante said a second shell sparked a direct hit on the hospital an hour later but "by an act of God" nobody was killed.

France is sending a government envoy to Africa to explain the humanitarian goals of France's intended military intervention to belligerents in the field, officials said Sunday.

Jean-Michel Marlaud, France's ambassador to Kigali, whose mission was closed nearly two months ago, will especially try to convince leaders of the Tutsi-

N. Ireland gunmen kill 6 in World Cup pub attack

BELFAST (R) — Protestant extremists shot dead six Catholics watching Ireland's World Cup soccer win over Italy in a Northern Ireland pub Saturday night, police said.

Security forces mounted a huge manhunt Sunday to track down the gunmen from the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) which claimed responsibility for the attack — the worst sectarian killing in Northern Ireland in eight months.

"There is no justification, no cause. The people who carried this out are the scum of the earth," said local councillor Pasty Toman, who knew all the victims.

Five other people were injured in the attack, two seriously.

The UVF, which says it is fighting to keep the province British, launched the attack at the tiny O'Toole's Pub in Loughinisland, a village about 50 kilometres southeast of Belfast.

Two gunmen burst into the pub where people were watching Ireland's 1-0 victory over television and sprayed the occupants with automatic fire before fleeing in a vehicle which was later found abandoned.

"(There were) bodies piled on top of each other," Kieran O'Toole, brother of the pub's owner, said in a television interview.

"The gunmen just came in, opened fire and people were just shot dead as they were watching the game on TV. It is just beneath contempt that people can carry out this type of thing."

Hearings began arriving at the white-painted pub before dawn with coffins to carry the dead away.

About 25 people were in the two-bar pub at the time of the attack.

It was the worst single sectarian shooting since a similar pub killing in Greysteel last October and followed a new spate of sectarian shootings in and around Belfast which killed four people in 48 hours last week.

Joe Hendron, of the moderate Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), voiced the fears of many when he said that he feared Protestant gunmen would try to pick a "soft target" on Saturday night when the whole island was watching the game.

"I sort of fell the UVF would take an easy target in some part of Northern Ireland. It's a nice easy slaughter for the UVF," he told a television interviewer.

The UVF and its sister group, the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), say they have resorted to killing Catholics to thwart a plot by the Dublin government to reunite Ireland under the guise of an Anglo-Irish peace initiative.

The UVF claimed credit for the Greysteel killing that was carried out to avenge a bombing one week earlier when nine Protestants were killed by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

The latest round of blood-letting began with the murder of a Catholic butcher by Protestant extremists last week and was followed by the shooting of a group of men in the Protestant Shankill Road area of Belfast in which two people were killed.

The Loughinisland attack appeared to be the gunmen's revenge both for the Shankill Road shooting and the jailing last week of one of their top commanders, Laurence Maguire.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment for five murders and received jail terms totalling 480 years for a series of sectarian attacks in rural and urban areas in 1992.

The Loughinisland attack took place on the eve of an important date in the calendar of the UVF's sworn foes — Irish nationalists who seek to reunite the British province and the republic.

Leaders of Sinn Fein, political wing of the IRA, were due to meet outside Dublin Sunday to honour Wolfe Tone, an 18th century leader of militant Irish nationalism.

Sinn Fein officials are expected to give their verdict in about three weeks on a six-month old joint Anglo-Irish peace plan which would give Sinn Fein a seat at peace talks if the IRA ends its 25-year war and Sinn Fein renounces the use of violence.

U.S. senator calls for military intervention if sanctions fail

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — U.S. Sen. Bob Graham has called for international intervention if Haiti's military leaders resist the latest sanctions designed to restore democracy in this poverty-stricken country.

"I don't think the United States (or) the international community can accept the example of a military regime that has by force deposed a democratically elected government," the Florida Democrat, on a two-day visit, said in the capital's sprawling Cite Soleil slum.

"And if it requires force from the international community to reverse that, that's the course of action we should take," Gen. Graham said.

Thomas Eddy Dupiton, a Haitian senator who was instrumental in the May appointment of Emile Jonassaint as Haiti's provisional president, told the Associated Press, "I welcome the arrival of impartial visitors, but someone who comes to Haiti speaking of the use of military force is being provocative. Haiti needs to be liberated, yes — from servility."

Mr. Jonassaint's government is not recognised by foreign governments.

President Bill Clinton has not ruled out using force against Haiti if international imposed sanctions fail to pressure the army leaders to step down. They ousted elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a 1991 coup.

Gen. Graham, a former governor of Florida whose district is only a 145 kilometres jettison ride from this country, said in May the U.S. should consider military intervention, even if it is unilateral. He has expressed concern about the impact of Haitian immigration on his state.

His visit to the site of a December fire that destroyed 853 homes in Cite Soleil turned chaotic, with journalists crowding around to hear and residents jostling each other in a bid to get close.

Rocard seeks party vote of confidence

PARIS (AFP) — French Socialist leader Michel Rocard Sunday challenged his colleagues to find a better presidential candidate in the wake of the party's poor performance in last week's European elections.

Mr. Rocard, hitherto regarded as the party's likely standard-bearer candidate in the contest to succeed fellow Socialist Francois Mitterrand in next year's presidential elections, told some 300 delegates at the opening of the party's executive council:

"If you do not like what I propose to you because you have a better solution, then choose that."

"You can call on somebody else" to lead the party, the former prime minister said, warning the delegates that they had "the future of socialism in France" in their hands.

The party list that Mr. Rocard led into the Euro-poll last Sunday scored just 14.5 per cent of the vote, the Socialists' worst performance since its creation in 1971.

Mr. Rocard devoted most of his speech to outlining policies for the definition of a party manifesto, calling on delegates to back the programme in what would effectively be a vote of confidence.

While Mr. Rocard was seeking to define the party's future course, the meeting was inescapably set to be overshadowed by the issue of who that the Socialists should throw into the ring for next April's presidential contest.

Laurent Fabius, whom Mr. Rocard ousted as party leader after the Socialists performed badly in the March 1993 general election, has already publicly backed European Commission President Jacques Delors as being "best placed" to enter the race for the Elysee Palace.

Mr. Fabius has not fought shy of criticising Mr. Rocard over the European debacle, which he called "the biggest thrashing we have had in 25 years."

Mr. Delors has not declared an interest in running for the presidency, and said after the Socialists' defeat last week that he considered Mr. Rocard their natural candidate.

He has consistently maintained since he went to head the Commission in 1985 that it was not for him to "talk about domestic French politics."

Mr. Delors's mandate in Brussels expires at the end of the year, and observers believe he will be approached

Poland holds local elections

WARSAW (AFP) — Poland went to the polls Sunday to elect more than 50,000 local councillors in the first real test of voter feeling since the former communists won power last September.

The government coalition, made up of the Peasants' Party (PSL) of Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak and the former communist Alliance of the Democratic Left (SLD) under Aleksander Kwasniewski, hoped to underline last year's general election success.

On local issues the two are divided, however, with the SLD supporting decentralisation noticeably more than its ally. The Peasants' Party favours keeping the reins of power firmly in Warsaw.

At the end of May, the Peasants' Party was leading in opinion polls, especially in rural areas, followed by the SLD and the Union for Freedom, which is strongest in the largest cities.

Turnout was said to be very slow, with parliamentary President Jozef Oleksy the only national political figure reported to have voted by midday.

Earlier forecasts predicted turnout at less than 50 per cent, with no candidates bothering to stand in some constituencies.

After casting his vote in Warsaw, where turnout was particularly sluggish, Mr. Oleksy said there was an insufficient degree of decentralisation in Poland to give the poll a true "local character."

He said more people would have felt compelled to turn out were that not so.

In Gorzow in the west, 90,000 ballots had to be verified and the local prosecutor opened an enquiry after some false voting cards were found.

In the southeastern town of Przemyśl, a group of barefoot Carmelite nuns dutifully cast their ballots. Normally they are not allowed to leave their convent except under exceptional circumstances.

On Sunday, their mother superior decided a local election constituted just such a circumstance.

The Polish episcopate, which has not directly intervened in the election campaign, criticised the government Saturday for dragging its feet over ratifying a concordate with the Vatican until a new constitution is passed, and for passing a recent bill liberalising abortion.

Most Swedes oppose EU membership

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — A majority of Swedes who will vote in five months to decide if their country joins the European Union (EU) are opposed to the idea, according to an opinion poll published by the daily Dagens Nyheter Sunday.

The Temo Institute poll showed that of the 1,012 people questioned between June 8 and 15, 43 per cent would vote 'no' to EU membership on Nov. 13, with 31 per cent 'yes' but 26 per cent had not yet made up their minds. Meanwhile the Swedish opposition Social Democratic Party voted Sunday to recommend membership to the 12-nation EU by 232 votes for with 103 against and two abstentions, a party spokesman said.

The decision was important in light of a Temo poll published Saturday by Dagens Nyheter which showed the Social Democrats could form Sweden's next government, winning 51.52 per cent of the votes in the legislative elections coming Sept. 18.

Political analysts noted that Swedish voters in the referendum were likely to be very much influenced by results of the Oct. 16 referendum in Finland on the same question.

Rain death toll hits 44 in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Monsoon downpours battering the western Indian state of Gujarat have killed 44 people in the past few days, the Press Trust of India said Sunday.

The agency said most of the dead were drowned or crushed in collapsing houses. Rainstorms have killed at least 32 people elsewhere in India this month as the annual monsoon sweeps north up the western coast and into the northeast.

3 killed by gunmen in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Gunmen attacked two mini-buses carrying civilians, killing three Muslims and wounding 12 others in a fresh outbreak of violence on the southern Philippine island of Basilan, police said Sunday.

The attacks occurred while more than 1,000 Marines ringed a hideout of the Muslim fundamentalist Abu Sayyaf Group holding a Roman Catholic priest for a ransom of three million pesos (\$111,000). Police said a Muslim preacher and two others were killed and their nine companions wounded Sunday when gunmen opened fire on their vehicle in Lamitan town, 25 kilometres from the Abu Sayyaf camp under military siege.

On Saturday, armed men fired on another mini-bus carrying civilians, wounding three occupants. A police spokesman refused to speculate whether the attacks were linked to the massacre in Basilan of 15 Christian hostages by the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on June 8, saying he did not want to fan Muslim-Christian conflict. On Saturday, unknown gunmen shot dead former Muslim rebel leader Dambong Sali in Zamboanga City.

Strike paralyses Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — A strike paralysed the Indian state of Kashmir Sunday, a day after some 50 people were injured when border guards fired on a crowd protesting the deaths of two militants, police said here.

Shops, government offices and schools were closed and traffic went off the roads across the Kashmir Valley in response to calls by a Muslim separatist group to denounce "recent killings by Indian security forces."

Indian authorities claim to have killed about 50 Muslim guerrillas in gunbattles in the past four days. Sunday's protest came after the Border Security Force (BSF) fired on hundreds of demonstrators who defied a curfew to protest the death of two rebels in the district of Pulwama late Saturday, witnesses said. The firing left some 50 people injured, the witnesses said. The troops had earlier beaten the protesters with truncheons.

China bars human rights lawyers

BEIJING (AP) — China plans to allow more foreign law firms to open offices, but will bar lawyers who specialise in human rights cases, an official report said Sunday.

"So-called 'human rights lawyers' or 'democracy lawyers,' who might jeopardise China's social stability and investment environment, will be barred from coming in," Shen Bailu, a Justice Ministry official, told the Xinhua News Agency. The number of foreign law offices will grow from the present 41 to about 100 by the end of 1995, Mr. Shen said.

Russia's shadow cast over Belarus presidential poll

MINSK (R) — Belarus, one of the most conservative of the former Soviet republics, holds its first presidential election this week with giant neighbour Russia casting a long shadow over proceedings.

The election Thursday is likely to produce a winner welcomed by Moscow.

Heavily favoured is conservative Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, chief proponent of a controversial monetary union with Russia. His stiffest opposition is likely to come from radical anti-corruption crusader Alexander Lukashenko.

Liberal former head of state Stanislav Shushkevich, who led Belarus to independence in 1991, is also in the running. But he stands little chance in an impoverished state where many long for the stability of the Soviet era.

"People will vote for the candidate who has the right attitude towards Russia," predicted Vladimir Shumeiko, chairman of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament.

Mr. Kebich, who advocates the slow lane to economic reform, stands firmly behind the proposed monetary union despite misgivings in both countries.

He enjoys the full backing of state structures and the government controlled media.

Students call for death of Bangladeshi feminist

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 5,000 students from Dhaka's Islamic religious schools took to the streets Sunday to call for the death of Bangladeshi feminist writer Taslima Nasrin.

"Hang that infidel and punish her devilish friends," chanted the students, wearing traditional Muslim robes and white caps.

Nasrin, in her early 30s, is hiding after the publication of an interview in which she allegedly said that Islam's holy book, the Koran, should be "revised thoroughly."

The government ordered her arrest after the Bangladesh Times reprinted the article, which first appeared in an Indian newspaper, on June 4. Its publication triggered an angry reaction from local Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Witnesses said the students, shouting alla-hu-akbar (Allah is Great), tried to march to parliament to register their protest against the controversial physician turned writer.

"She will not be forgiven," one said. "Death would be too lenient a penalty compared to her crimes," yelled another.

Police stopped the students several blocs from the parliament building but witnesses said a few of their leaders were allowed to hand over a list of demands to the legislature's speaker.

The march followed weeks of street protests by Muslims angered by Nasrin's alleged remarks.

Nasrin has also drawn widespread indignation in Bangladesh for her outspoken criticism of religion and marriage — and promoting free sex — which earned her plaudits from some Bangladeshi intellectuals and foreign feminists.

Fundamentalist leader Mufti Nazrul Islam has offered a 100,000 taka (\$2,500) reward for anyone who would kill Nasrin. He said the writer "has committed an unforgivable offence against Islam and must be condemned to death."

Nasrin denied charges that she had insulted Islam and said she had been misquoted in the interview with the Indian newspaper 'The Statesman'. In a letter to the speaker of the Bangladesh parliament she urged the government to ensure her safety.

The Statesman reporter denied she had misquoted Nasrin.

The students Sunday supported a call by their mentors for creating a blasphemy law to deal with "anti-Islamic propaganda" and backed a proposed June 30 general strike to press for the death of Nasrin.

Several cultural groups and the left-wing workers party urged Bangladeshis Sunday to "resist the fundamentalists and their unlawful activities."

"We must build a united resistance against all fundamentalist forces," a Workers' Party statement said. But it accused the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of failing to handle the Nasrin issue.

Impressive Ireland humble Italy 1-0

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Triple champions Italy made the worst possible start to their World Cup campaign Saturday as an impressive Ireland team sent them stumbling to a 1-0 defeat.

The thousands of green-clad Ireland fans at the Giants Stadium danced delighted jigs to celebrate one of the greatest wins in Irish soccer history.

The triumphant mood among the Irish soured as reports came through six people had been shot dead as they watched the match in a

Northern Ireland pub (see page 9).

Ireland coach Jack Charlton's team has few star names but he has turned it into a formidable force in his eight years in charge. They have scored a series of notable wins over more celebrated teams but none can match this upset.

"The win has to be one of the best results in football. We beat the Italians 1-0," said Charlton, a World Cup winner as an England player in 1966.

Ireland had lost all six previous meetings with Italy.

Their only other World Cup final appearance ended with a 1-0 defeat by Italy in the quarter-finals in Rome four years ago.

Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi, under pressure from an Italian media baffled by his frequent changes in personnel and tactics, tried to play down the importance of defeat in a group which also includes Norway and Mexico.

Sacchi had spoken about the strength of the Irish and his worst fears were realised when they took the lead in the 12th minute through a speculative shot by veteran Ray Houghton.

Houghton seized on a poor header by Italy captain Franco Baresi and floated positioned goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca.

"I haven't scored for a long time but I think I repaid Jack's faith today," said Houghton, whose place was under threat before the match.

"I felt a bit faint after the goal because all the lads were jumping on me," added the Aston Villa man, who has scored just four times in 59 internationals.

The highly-rated Italians never found any rhythm with European footballer of the

year Roberto Baggio flitting in and out of the game.

Ireland played much better as a team, varying their familiar long ball tactics with some excellent passing and movement from their five-man midfield.

Captain Andy Townsend had a superb game at the heart of midfield while Paul McGrath was outstanding at the back.

The Irish should have doubled their winning margin but midfielder John Sheridan blasted a clear opportunity against the bar in the 72nd minute.

Romania stun Colombia 3-1

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Maybe Pele overestimated Colombia's potential just a little bit.

Striker Florin Raducioiu scored one goal in each half as Romania surprised Colombia 3-1 in a Group A game Saturday before 91,856 fans at the Rose Bowl.

"We respected Colombia, but we insisted and wanted this victory," said Raducioiu, who plays for European champions cup winner AC Milan in Italy.

"It was a very good victory because we beat a very good team that remains a favourite for this World Cup. Colombia has a very technical team with natural qualities. But today we played very well."

Colombia, rated as the best of the 24 qualifiers coming into the World Cup by Pele, started well but could not come back after falling behind 2-0 after 34 minutes against a defensive-minded team that relied heavily on counter attacks.

"The first goal was a typical counter-attack goal," Raducioiu said. "My second goal was the same. I just took the ball from the goalkeeper and put it into the net."

The United States tied Switzerland 1-1 earlier Saturday in the other Group A game at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich., the first match played indoors in World Cup history.

Romania, which has the second youngest squad in the World Cup with an average age of 25.1, struck unexpectedly and fiercely after the Colombians carried the play for the first 15 minutes of the game.

Raducioiu scored on the Romanians' first chance after a brilliant individual move in the 15th minute that silenced the mostly pro-Colombian crowd.

Midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, another foreign-based player who is a star for Brescia in Italy, set up Raducioiu's both tallies and scored the second for a 2-0 lead in the 33rd minute.

"It was a great victory for us," Hagi said. "Colombia is a very strong team. We respected them. But all games are very tough. We have to be well prepared for each of the remaining games."



Gheorghe Hagi

Raducioiu's first goal came after a fast counter-attack. Hagi struck a deep pass from midfield to Raducioiu, who faked two defenders before firing a right-footed drive from 18 yards (metres) past goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba.

Hagi's goal was a gem. After noticing that Cordoba had ventured too far from his line, Hagi hit a wonderful lob from about 35 yards over the helpless goalkeeper.

Ten minutes earlier, Hagi came close as he chipped a shot from long range that Cordoba had to dive to push away.

Wilson Perez set up Colombia's lone goal with a corner kick three minutes before halftime, bending a ball for Adolfo Valencia, who scored on a header from close range through heavy traffic.

Colombia, which had only lost twice since July 1991, had a golden opportunity to tie in the 61st minute as striker Faustino Asprilla broke down the right flank. But his close-range shot flew just wide of Cordoba's post.

Asprilla also had several scoring chances during the first 15 minutes on the game when the Colombians pressed hard for an early goal.

Carlos Valderrama, the

1993 South American player of the year, did not play well in the first half, missing several easy passes. But Valderrama, who has been bothered by a slight injury in his right knee in the last three games, improved after the break.

Romania's clincher came with just three minutes remaining after Hagi struck another long pass up to Raducioiu. Cordoba came out to challenge him but the Romanian striker tapped the ball past him and shot into the open net from a sharp angle.

Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu said he feared Colombia because of its "very good results going into the World Cup and also because they played before 75,000 people. And, not the least, they have some players who are the best in the world."

"But we played very intelligent and tactical," Iordanescu said. "We knew how to close the principal players of Colombia. We knew how to cover the space. And our players gave the best."

Saturday's game was the first game of eight scheduled for the Rose Bowl, leading to the July 17 final.

Italy in mourning after defeat

ROME (R) — Italy was in a state of mourning Sunday after their worst possible start to the World Cup campaign — a 1-0 defeat by Ireland.

The loss at the hands of a team Italy have beaten in their last six meetings made banner headlines in most newspapers, which stepped up pressure on Italian team coach Arrigo Sacchi.

The streets of Rome emptied shortly before the match began Saturday night and remained deserted after it ended.

"Everyone is staying at home to cry," said one restaurant waiter who had been watching the match outside on a small pocket television between serving courses.

On the Mediterranean island of Capri, the holiday spirit evaporated soon after Ireland's 12th minute goal.

Only foreigners uninterested in football were to be seen on the streets, which fell unusually silent for a Saturday evening.

In Milan, the home of league champions AC Milan, the city was stunned.

The tooting of car horns that is the mark of any major football engagement died down within minutes of Ray Houghton's winner.

Italian newspapers Sunday did not spare their scorn for a national team they said played in an uninspired manner.

"Italy makes its debut among the whistles," ran a front-page headline across eight columns in Il Giornale



Italy's Roberto Baggio reacts after missing a goal late in his team's Saturday match against Ireland (AFP photo)

newspaper.

The Turin-based La Stampa newspaper said the team's World Cup debut was nothing less than a "legendary fiasco."

"Little Italy in New York is in mourning," its front-page editorial said. "The whole adventure could not have be-

gun in a worse manner."

Sacchi, under pressure from an Italian media baffled by his frequent changes in personnel and tactics, had tried before the match to play down the importance of defeat in a group that also includes Norway and Mexico.

"I'm not sure I have any influence left up there, but I'm praying for Ireland," said Andrea Rochford of Dublin. "I'll get heart failure if this

Exuberant celebration as Ireland beat Italy

NEW YORK (R) — New York became a sea of Green Saturday as Irish fans exuberantly celebrated Ireland's dramatic victory over Italy.

"I can go home in a coffin now after this win," said Paul Rochford of Dublin.

All over New York and New Jersey, where the game was played before 74,000 fans, the Irish erupted into ecstatic celebration.

When Ireland scored what proved to be the winning goal, the stadium went wild, and Irish fans leaped to their feet, dancing, singing, cheering and embracing one another.

The Irish fans, dubbed "Jack's Army" after coach Jack Charlton, the English manager of the team and known as Ireland's favourite Englishman, seemed to have taken over the stadium with banners and flags and singing.

"There's hardly an Italian in sight," said Brendan Mullen of Dublin, and now living in Boston. "Jack's Army rules the stadium."

Irish banners covered the stadium and Irish voices seemed to cheer incessantly, as Ireland fought off Italy's attempts to equalise in the second half.

"I'm not sure I have any influence left up there, but I'm praying for Ireland," said Andrea Rochford of Dublin. "I'll get heart failure if this

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All proceeds will go to benefit the fund of the needy students of the National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cameroon set for World Cup cash

YAOUNDE (AFP) — Every player and coach in Cameroon's World Cup squad will earn \$10,000 for playing in the United States, plus another \$5,000 for each win, their government said Saturday night. Communications Minister Augustin Kountchou Kouamegni said the initial payment will cost the state 150 million CFA francs (\$250,000). "If we keep to these figures, and if the team wins the final, the government will have to pay out 850 million CFA francs (\$1.4 million)," he said. The minister added that a national campaign to raise finance for the Indomitable Lions' trip to the States had yielded 298 million CFA francs (\$500,000), of which a third had come from President Paul Biya.

Iran follows Islamic broadcasts

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian viewers were surprised to see spectators wearing winter coats during the first World Cup match played Friday in Chicago in sweltering heat. For the first time since the Islamic revolution in 1979 Iranians were able to enjoy live broadcasts of World Cup games. But "un-Islamic scenes" of spectators were apparently replaced with pre-recorded footage of fans wearing coats, gloves and hats taken at other games played in the winter. The aim was apparently to avoid showing women in revealing clothes such as shorts and low cut tops which go against the Iranian dress code for women of a black robe covering all their body except the face and hands. "The correction of un-Islamic scenes is possible with several seconds of delay which is not a problem," Javad Motaghi, an advisor to the director of Iran's radio and television, said.

Fans stone Mexican embassy

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Hundreds of soccer fans angry at a call by a Mexican referee in the World Cup opener threw rocks and other objects at the Mexican embassy Friday

night, smashing windows and some doors. No injuries were reported, police said. Bolivia lost to Germany 1-0 Friday in a game in which its star player, Marco Antonio Echegaray, was sent off in the second half for rough play, three minutes after entering the game. Many Bolivians believed Germany's goal by Jurgen Klinsmann after 61 minutes came from an offside position. Mexican referee Arturo Brizio and the linesmen allowed the play to continue. Once the game was over, thousands of fans took to the streets in La Paz to cheer their team's play and after a few minutes headed toward the Mexican embassy. National police commander, General Luis Rocha, said many of the building's windows and some doors were smashed, but that no one was injured. Police dispersed the crowd peacefully.

Bank robbed as guard watches Cup

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thieves hauled away two bank safes containing nearly 1 million baht (\$40,000) after the guard abandoned his post to watch World Cup soccer, a newspaper reported Sunday. The robbery at the Siam Commercial Bank branch in Chiang Mai, 560 kilometres north of Bangkok, took place after midnight Friday, while people in this soccer-crazy country were glued to television sets for live World Cup coverage. One of the safes weighed almost 100 kilograms, so police believe at least four thieves were involved, the Bangkok Post reported. It said the guard discovered the break-in at 5 a.m. (1800 GMT) Saturday.

Ahli win Egyptian soccer league

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Ahli of Cairo won the Egypt soccer league Saturday with a 4-3 (halftime 2-0) victory over Ismaili in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. Scorers were Mohammad Ramadan (9th minute, 14, 63) and Ayman Shawki (67) for Ahli; and Emad Suleiman (75), Ahmad Rizk (76) and Fikri Essaghir (91) for Ismaili.



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Dutch wary of unknown Brazil look to Beбето, against Saudi Arabia Romario against Russia

WASHINGTON (R) — The Netherlands, bristling with fitness and seemingly in good form, step into the unknown Monday when they meet Saudi Arabia in their opening World Cup Group F encounter at the RFK Memorial Stadium.

For both teams it will be a novel meeting.

The Dutch, on their own admission, know virtually nothing about the Saudi team while the Saudis, despite approaching the game with a confidence bordering on arrogance, will be playing in their first World Cup finals match.

"All we, the players, have seen of them is half of their qualifying match against Japan, on a video," said Dennis Bergkamp, who is expected to play in a withdrawn striking role Monday evening. "It is not too much of a problem for us, though, as we have been concentrating on our own game."

According to those who have seen Saudi Arabia play, a tight, slow and difficult match may be in prospect for the Dutch who could be reminded of the difficulties posed by Egypt in similar circumstances in Italy four years ago.

"We shall be attacking and looking for goals, as that is our style," said Bergkamp.

"I know it is hot and they may be more familiar with playing in high temperatures, but we feel we can cope with both the heat and the opposition if we play well."

After losing two World Cup finals, in 1974 and 1978, when they were beaten by the hosts each time, and failing to live up to their reputation as pre-tournament favourites in Italy in 1990, the Dutch are long overdue another good World Cup.

To judge from their mood after settling into the sumptuous Ritz-Carlton "Hotel" some 20 miles (30 km) west of Washington, on Saturday, there is also plenty of optimism among the players.

"I am motivated by our past failings, but not completely," said Ronald Koeman, the Barcelona libero whose long-range shooting may be a particularly potent weapon against the physically smaller Saudi team. "We know what we are capable of

and our real motivation is to fulfil that potential."

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat gave little away about his team's likely tactics or line-up, but admitted he was considering various possibilities which suggested defensive midfielder Frank Rijkaard could start in a right-back position with an aggressive attacking brief.

Advocaat said he was concerned the Saudis may play with only one striker and break into space on the flanks, a tactic which could be stopped by using an extra player at the back.

But it is likely the Dutch will play their normal free-wheeling 3-4-3 formation with two wingers and it will be a surprise if, as the outstanding team in the group, they cannot enjoy a comfortable victory.

The Saudis, for whom Mohammad Abdul Jawad is a dependable captain and defensive force, will rely on defence in depth, possession when possible in midfield and counter-attacks led by Majed Abdullah, 34, dubbed the "Desert Pele."

According to statistics distributed by the Saudi federation, he has scored 118 goals in 166 internationals.

The effect of their attacks is likely to be limited, as Abdullah is understood to be less than fully-fit, having done less training than most of his team-mates.

Neither squad has significant injuries and the coaches are expected to name their teams only shortly before kickoff.

Probable teams:

Netherlands: 1-Ed de Goeij 4-Ronald Koeman 14-Ulrich van Ginkel 2-Frank de Boer 3-Frank Rijkaard, 8-Wim Jonk, 10-Dennis Bergkamp, 6-Jan Wouters 7-Marc Overmars, 9-Ronald de Boer, 11-Bryan Roy.

Saudi Arabia — 1-Mohammad Al Deayea 2-Abdullah Al Dossari, 3-Mohammad Al Khilawi, 5-Ahmad Jamil Madani, 13-Mohammad Abdul Jawad 6-Fuad Anwar Amin, 8-Fahad Al Bishi, 14-Khalid Al Mualid, 16-Talal Jabrin 9-Majed Abdullah, 10-Saeed Owairan.

Referee: Manuel Vega Diaz (Spain).

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Brazil, promising a feast of attacking soccer, are looking to strikers Beбето and Romario to give them the perfect start to their World Cup campaign against Russia Monday.

Both sides have identified the deadly duo as the key players in the opening Group B clash in San Francisco, pitting Brazil's individualism and flair against Russia's coldly calculated team approach.

"Romario is an incredible player. He can have a quiet game and then he can decide everything in one moment," Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira told reporters. "Beбето and Romario are the ones we will have to watch and guard closely."

Russian striker Sergei Yuran said. Russia, competing for the first time in the World Cup following the break up of the Soviet Union, are not saying how they plan to snuff out Beбето and Romario.

Robbed of six players by a rebellion against coach Pavel Sadryin before the squad was chosen, their options are limited and they are likely to go for a draw.

"Against a team as strong as Brazil, it would probably be good (to draw)," Sadryin said. "You can't beat them in technique. Probably the only way is through teamwork."

Sadryin has no major injury worries but central defender Viktor Onopko, the captain, will miss the match because of a red card picked up in the final qualifying match against Greece. The Russian team will be named as late as possible.

Russia's tactics will probably be to closely mark Beбето and Romario and look to Yuran, their dangerman up front, to score on the counter attack.

Their other main hope will be that the huge pressure on Brazil, for whom second place would be regarded back home as a failure, will prove too much for the South Americans.

World Cup USA



Today's matches:

Group B: Brazil vs. Russia in San Francisco at 23:00 Amman time.
Group F: Saudi Arabia vs. the Netherlands in Washington at 02:30 (Tuesday) Amman time.

he said.

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Belgium survive Moroccan grilling to win duel 1-0

ORLANDO, Florida (AFP)

— Marc Degryse's early goal gave Belgium a 1-0 victory in their World Cup Group F opener here Sunday but opponents Morocco were left to curse their luck after striker Mohammad Chouch twice hit the woodwork.

In the first meeting between the countries Morocco quickly showed they would not be overawed by supposedly superior opponents when Mustapha Hajdi's shot from an acute angle was blocked by Belgian goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme.

Five minutes later Degryse

had Belgium's first notable effort of a frenetic first half when he curled a shot wide of the right-hand post from outside the penalty area.

Little over a minute later he same player opened the scoring. The lively Luc Nilis took advantage of a stroke of luck when the ball came back to him off a defender to cross left-footed for Degryse to send an unstoppable near-post header past Khalil Azmi into the far corner.

Morocco were then lucky not to fall further behind when Josip Weber's downward header from Rudi

Smids' left-wing cross was only prevented from going into the net when it hit Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo.

Weber, the Croatian-born striker granted Belgian citizenship in March, was making his World Cup debut after nine goals in his first three outings for the national side.

Preud'homme had to be at his sharpest to push a shot round the post after 23 minutes while the Belgians were fortunate soon afterwards when there was no Moroccan on hand to convert Hajdi's

cross as it rolled across the face of the goal.

At the other end Nilis' direct running continued to trouble Morocco's defence and when the forward danced past two players in the area only the legs of goalkeeper Khalil Azmi denied him.

Four minutes from the interval Morocco were denied an equaliser when Chaouch crashed a shot against the bar from 20 metres.

Morocco pegged Belgium back in their own half for long periods after the interval as the heat and humidity began to take its toll.

Pierce withdrawal puts focus on Navratilova

LONDON (R) — The 11th-hour withdrawal of Mary Pierce has thrust Martina Navratilova ever more firmly under the microscope when she has vowed to win when the final Wimbledon begins Monday.

The rise of Pierce at the French Open last month, where she crushed world number one Steffi Graf 6-2 and reached the final, was seen as the best possible tonic for a women's game ruled exclusively by the German.

Pierce's departure Saturday night, "for reasons far beyond my control," is presumed to have stemmed from problems caused by her American father Jim, though the 19-year-old Frenchwoman made no mention of it in a vague statement of explanation.

But her absence has robbed the world's premier grass court event of the sparkling new talent it needed to counter the bid by Graf to take a sixth title in seven years.

Enter Navratilova, for the last time before her final exit. The holder of a record nine Wimbledon singles titles — as well as nine in doubles — she is having one last flying at the event she has graced ever since the first appeared as a chubby Czechoslovak 16-year-old back in 1973.

Now American, Navratilova, widely regarded as the best woman player ever, will try to extract one more glory run from 37-year-old bones that are beginning to creak from the strain of the passing years.

"Wimbledon is the place I cherish in my heart and soul. But I shall try to play it one match at a time," she said last week.

"If I go out there for every match thinking this might be the last one, I won't be able to hit a ball."

Navratilova begins her battle on the centre court against British teenager Claire Taylor on Monday, the court where she hopes, if it has to happen, her last match will take place.

"I would find it difficult to bow out on an outside court," she said.

The draw has been kind to her, if she can get by the early rounds without the drop in form that she showed in defeat by fellow American Meredith McGrath — the eventual winner — at Eastbourne last week.

The later rounds have spared her a meeting with Graf until the final though to get there she may have to beat the French champion, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, in the semifinals.



Mary Pierce

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The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 3 Pass
4 NT Pass 5 Pass
7 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of
How would you play seven spades after a heart lead? It is not as easy as it might look.

Once partner jumps shifted and then jump raised spades, South decided that, despite the void in hearts, Blackwood was as good a way as any to investigate the possibilities—had North shown only two aces, South was going to gamble on them being in the bid suits. When

West led a heart against seven spades and declarer adopted a reasonable line. The opening lead was ruffed in hand and trumps were drawn in two rounds. Next came the ace and king of diamonds in an attempt to drop the queen. When her majesty failed to appear, South crossed to dummy with a trump and discarded two diamonds on the seeing of hearts.

Declarer returned to hand with a diamond ruff and tried the club finesse—down one. Rather unlucky, in our opinion. But a slightly better line did exist. Declarer should win the opening heart lead in dummy and discard a club from hand. After cashing the ace of clubs and ruffing a club, declarer draws trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy and ruffs a club. If the king does not drop, declarer falls back on the diamond finesse. As the cards lie, all is well. Simply stated, the chance of ruffing out the king of clubs in three rounds is greater than dropping the queen of diamonds in two.

my birth stone IS SMARTER.



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